

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE
HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE
HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION

THE
MOST EX-
cellent Historie of
Lysimachus and Var-
rona, daughter to Syllanus, Duke of
Hypata, in Thessalia.

Wherin are contained the effects of *Fortune*,
the Wonders of affection, and *the conquests*
of incertaine Time.

By I. H. R.

————— *Seclantem grandia nervi*
Deficient, animusque. —————



LONDON
Printed by Thomas Creede. 1604.

Phot of 61507



TO THE RIGHT

Honourable *Henry VVriothesly*, Earle of
Southampton, and Baron of *Titchfield*:

*I. H. wisheth encrease of all vertuous
and Honourable resolutions.*



Report (Right Honourable) that hath enobled your singular, and manifold vertues, by nature and fortune, to the Worldes commendation, hath induced mee, to thrust into the open light this my abortiue issue, to be shrowded vnder the shadowe of your Lordships winges, the fruite of some idle houres, sith after many thoughts I could not excogitate any more pleasing recreation, whercon I might bestow times of leysure. The argument I confesse, is of too base consequence; to procure your liking, or deserue your allowing. Neuerthelesse the force of dutie, and zeale, possessing the chiefeſt por-

The Epistle Dedicatory.

tion of mine interests, ouerrule my thoughts and resolutions, in hazarding the entertainment thereof, at your fauourable courtesie, and construction. And if I may perceiue that your Lordship affoords the countenance, to grace my papers with the demonstration, of the extreamest degree of good liking, I shall be emboldned to raise my Muses note, that now yeelds harsh musick, to an higher key, a fairer fruite, of my better ordered vacant houres, and manifest my dutie to your Honour, in some matter of greater import, then a superficial toy. But fearing to grow offensive through tediousnes, I commit this simple work to your Lordships patronage, and your Honour to the Almightyes protection: for the preleruation of which, I will pray continually. I ende.

*Your Lordships most firmly deuoted
in all seruiceable endeouours.*

I. H.



To the Gentlemen Readers.



Entlemen, I haue written the Historie of *Lysimachus* and *Varrona*, a worke attempted to winne your fauours, but to discouer mine own ignorance, in that raunging in a large field of copious matter, and being engulphed in an Ocean of conceit, I lye there ouerwhelmed. If my methode be nothing pleasant, yet presuming vpon your curtesies, I doubt not but you will smoothe it vp with patience: and the vertue of your affectiō I trust will stand in the front as a strōg fort of defence, to shield me from the delcating verdicts of such vnfriendly Readers, which conceiting the Authors entent amisse, may wrest his meaning by wrong cōiectures: and from the sowre censures of the ouer-curious Moralists of our age, which glory to be tearmed the new vprearers of the long agoe confuted Stoicall *Apathy*. Howsoeuer the case standeth, I looke for no praise for my labour, but pardon for my good will: it is the greatest reward that I dare aske, and the least which may be offered: I desire no more, I deserue no lesse. Thus Gentlemen, committing these my labors to your friendly view, and submitting my selfe to your curteous censures, I end: wishing to you all feuerall good fortunes. Farewell.

I. H. R.



Verfes in praise of the Booke.

Come see this worke that is but slily wrought,
Take but this simple trauaile in your view,
As in a mirrour there is deeply taught,
The wanton vices of proud fancies crew:
There is depainted by most curious art,
How loue and folly iumpe in euery part.

This little Pamphlet more conceit combines,
Then wanton Ouid in his art did paint:
And sharper Satyres are within his lines,
Then Martia^l sung proud Venus to attaint.
Sith then his art doth plainly yeeld such gaines,
Read it, and thanke the Author for his paines.

Ro. Bacchus.

YE English gallants stoupe and gather bayes,
Make Coronets of *Floraes* proudest flowers,
As gifts for him, for he must haue the praise,
And taste the deawes that high *Parnassus* shewers:
As hauing leapt beyond old *Ouid's* straine,
In taunting Louers for their fruitlesse paine.

Tho: Talkinghame,

Gentleman.



THE MOST EX-
cellent Historie of Lysi-
machus and Varrona, Daughter to
Syllanus Duke of Hypata
in Thessalia.



In Thessalia, when Nature hath made the
soyle proude with the beawtie of Floras
riches, as though she meant to wrap Tei-
lus in the glozie of her vestments, there
dwelled a Magnifico, a man of most ho-
norable parentage, whome Fortune had
graced with many fauours, and Nature
honoured with sundrie exquisite qualitics,
so beawtified with the excellencie of both, as it was a question
whether Fortune or Nature were more prodigall in describ-
ing the riches of their bounties. This Knight thus enriched
with vertue and honour, surnamed Syllanus, had to ioy him
in his age a daughter of great beawtie, so exquisite in her ex-
terior feature, as no blemish might eclipse that which Nature
had bestowed in her lineaments. This Damsell whose name
was Varrona, dayly vsed to trauctse the plaines wherein her
fathers sheepe were kept, partly to pzeuent inconueniences
which through idlenesse might haue annoyed her health, and
partlie to ply the care of her fathers folds: (for she knew that
the eyes of the maister feedes the cattell) which with such dili-
gence was perfozmed, as that she seemed with labour to enter

The Historie of

armes against want, and with her hands thrust to preoccupate her hearts griefe. Using thus dayly the walks of *Theffalia*, the Shepheards not a little delighted at the view of so excellent an object, held their eyes fortunate when they might behold her feature, accounting him happie that could lay his flocks nearest vnto her walks. Amongst these that fed their thoughts on her fauours, there was one called *Lyfimachus*, a yong youth, that had the pride of his yeres triumphing in his countenance, a man, whose parentage though it were worshipfull, yet was it not indued with much wealth, insomuch that his wit was better then his reuenues, and his industrie more beneficiall then his substance. This *Lyfimachus* trauieling amongst the lawnes, no sooner had a glaunce of her beautie, but set downe his staffe, resolving either to perish in so sweete a labyrinth, or in time happily to stumble out with *Theseus*: In which extasie he shall remaine, till we haue described the cause why he left *Macedonia* his natie countrey, and the perilous euents which hapned during his voyage hither into *Theffalia*.

This youth was one of the sonnes of *Alexandro*, who hauing passed the prime of his youth in sundry battailes against *Astolpho* king of *Lydia*, at last (as the date of time hath his course) grew aged, his haire was siluer helwed, and the map of his age was figured on his forehead, in such sort, as that all men might perceiue his glasse was run, and that nature of necessitie challenged her due. *Alexandro* that knewe the tearme of his life was now expired, hauing two sonnes by his wife *Olympis*, the very pride of his forepassed yeres, thought now, seeing death by constraint would compell him to leaue them, with wholesome admonitions and louing persuasions for the increasung of their ensuing amitie, to distribute in their portions the substance of his wealth for the countercheck of pouertie. All which being done, to the end that they might not forget his arions, he gaue them a scroule, wherein they might reade what their father dying, willed them to execute liuing. At which *Alexandro* shynke downe in his bed, and came by the ghost. Whose death was greatly lamented of his

two

Lysimachus and Varrona.

two sonnes, and bewayled of all his friends, especially of his
tellotwarrours, who attended on his funerals, which were
performed with great solemnities. His obsequies done, Va-
lentine caused his Epitaph, with the contents of the scroole
to be pourtraged out, which were to this effect.

The contents of the Schedule, which *Alexandro*
gave to his sonnes.

- 1 **L** Et Gods worship be your mornings worke, and his
wisedome the direction of your dayes labour.
- 2 Rise not without thanks, neither sleepe without
repentance.
- 3 Choose but a few friends, and try those, for the flatterer
speakes fairest.
- 4 If you haue discreet wiues, make them your Secretaries,
else lock your thoughts in your hearts, for women are
seldome silent.
- 5 If they be faire, be not icalous, for suspition cures not
womens follies.
- 6 If they be wise, wrong them not : for if they loue others,
they will loath you.
- 7 Let your childrens nurture be their richest portion : for
wisedome is more precious then wealth.
- 8 Be not proud amongst your poore neighbours : for a
poore mans hate is perillous.
- 9 Nor too familiar with great men : for presumption wins
disdaine.
- 10 Neither too prodigall in your fare, nor dye indebted to
your bellies, enough is a feast.
- 11 Be not enuious, leaſt ye fall in your owne imaginations.
- 12 Vſe patience, mirth, and quiet : for care is an enemy to
health.

Valentine having thus set vp his schedule, & hangd about his
fathers coffin many passionat poems, that al *Macedonia* might

The Historie of

suppose him to be passing sorrowfull, clad himselfe and his younger brother Lysimachus all in blacke, and in such sable suites discoursed his griefe: But as the Hiena when she mournes is most guilefull, so Valentine under the shew of dolour shadowed his heart full of contented thoughts: The Wyger though he hide his clawes, will at last discover his rapine: The Lions looke are not the maps of his meaning, nor a mans phisnomie the display of his secrets. Fire cannot be hid in straw, nor the nature of a man so concealed, but at last it will haue his course: nature and arte may do much, but that *Natura naturans* which by purgation is engrafted in the heart, will be at last perforce predominant. Euen thus and no otherwise fared it with Valentine, for after a quarter of a yeres lamentation was ended, he entred into consideration how he might extort from his yonger brother the substance bequeathed him by his father, if not defraud him utterly of his due, yet make such hauock of his legacie, as it should be a great deale the lighter, wherenpon he began thus to meditate with himselfe.

Valentines meditation with himselfe.

NOw Valentine, loue and fortune haue brought thee into a Labozinth, thy thoughts are like Ianus pictures, that present both peace and warre, and thy mind like Venus anuile, where is hammered both feare and hope. With then the chance lyeth in thy owne choice; do not with Medea see and allow of the best, and then follow the worst; but of two extreames, if they be *Immediata*, chuse that which may haue least prejudice & most profit: intreate thy brother in fauours, and entertaine him with loue, so shalt thou haue thy conscience cleere, and thy renolue excellent. Tush, what words are these, far unfit (if thou be wise) for thy honour. What though thy father at his death talked many frivolous matters, as one that doated for age, and raved in his sickness, shall his words be so authentically, as thou wilt in observing them prejudice thy selfe? No, no, sick mens wils that are paroll, hauing no hand

Lysimachus and Varrona.

no leale, are like the lawes of a Citie written in dust, which are broken with the blast of euery wind. What man, thy father is dead, and he can neither help thy fortunes, nor measure thy actions; therefore burie his words with his carcasle, and be wise for thy selfe: what, tis not so old as true, *Non sapit, qui sibi non sapit*. But unhappie Valentine, whither doest thou roue? Do thy vertues increasie like the pace of a Crab, who creepeth backward: Hast thou in the cradle bin continent, and wilt thou in the saddle be impudent? Now I see, that albeit vertue hath bridled thy youth with chaste thoughts, yet vanitie hath enchanted thy yeeres with fond resolutions, resembling the Nettie, which may be handled in the bud, but stingeth in the flower: Art thou so well skild already in thy fathers precepts, as that thou meanest to buy folly and cheapen repentance? Are not we sonnes of one father, liens of one tree, birds of one nest? and wilt thou become so unnatural as to rob him, whom especiallie thou oughtest to relieue? Did not thy father tell thee, that brothers amitie is like the drops of *Balsamum*, that salueth most dangerous sores? Did he exhort vnto concord, and wilt thou shew thy selfe carelesse? Fie vpon these frivulous words, which rather then they should in such sort be prejudiciall vnto my prosperitie, as detain me from reigning sole Lord ouer all my fathers possessions, I would not onely in forswearing the remembrance of them, violate naturall affection, but with mine owne hands worke my vtter confusion: for loth would I be deprived of so triumphant an expectation. In this humour Valentine left his Chamber, vowing the performance of these diuellish resolutions. Thus for two or thre dayes being very pensive, and full of many passions, it chanced that as he walked thus in his muses, fetching the compasse of his conceit beyond the Gorne, he met with two beggerly fellows, who as their custome was, began their *Exordium* with I pray good Maister, and so forth, hoping to finde the Gentleman as liberall, as he was full of gracious fauours: neither did they misse of their imagination, for he thought them likely to be drawne on to the execution of his

B 3

purpose,

The Historie of

purpose, conceipted thus, that gold was as good as glee to knit them to any practise whatsoener, and therefore out with his purse & greased the in the hands with a brace of angels. This vnaccustomed reward made the more franch of curtesies, that enery rag reacht the Gentleman a reuerence, with promise of many prayers for his health. He that harped on another string took y^e men by the hands, & sitting down vpon the graine grasse, discoursed vnto them from point to point the beginning of his sorowes, & how by no meanes (except by them) he could rest satisfied. The beggers desirous to do the Gentleman any pleasure, said they were ready to take any paines that might redound to his content, whereupon he replied thus. When my good friends, ye shall run into yonder towne (pointing to *Idomena*) making solemne exclamations that if present remedy be not adhibited, there will be no question but that the destruction of a certaine person in this wood will be vnfallible, being sorely oppressed by a desperat ruffian: if ye can cunningly & closely thus conuay vnto the officers the tenour of your minds, I will so highly gratifie you, as neuer afterwards ye shall be found to exercise your old occupation. These hell-hounds glad of this large proffer, promised to venter a ioynt, but they would further him in his enterprize: whereupon he dispatcht them away, whose minds were so fired on this liberall condition, that they bestirred their stumps till they came vnto the towne: where notice of their aduertisement being taken, assisted by the Magistrate they made to y^e wood: who no sooner were come within the reach of Valentines eye, but puffing & blowing, as though all would haue split againe, he posted vnto them, charging the vpon their alleageance they bore to their soueraigne Lord their King, that they should not spare to execute the rigour of the lawe vpon his brother, who esteeming gold sufficient honour, became so deafe against my fathers philosophicall harmonie, and made more value of profit then of vertue, as to the end that he might strip me out of my possessions, came rushing in, and laid such violent hands vpon me, as had not the sight of your approaching hither terrified his vnnaturall stratagem,

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

he had ere this bereaued me of life. Whereupon seeing his notorious villanie which so long lay hid in the ashes of pretended simplicitie, thus discovered, and after this sort detected, for his better securitie betooke himselfe to his heeles, 'whome if you follow downe along this vale towards my house, he cannot possiblie escape your hands.

Fortune that saw how Lyfimachus valued not her deitie, but held her power in scorn, thought to haue about with him, and brought the matter to passe thus. Lyfimachus as his vsuall maner was, walked befoze his brothers house in a valley betweene two high mountaines (toppt with trees of marvellous verdure, whereby ran a fountaine pleasant, as well for the murmur of the streames, as for the sweetnes of waters) with his Boare-speare vpon his neck, where hauing stroken a Deere, and but lightly hurt, he packed downe by the groue in great haste expecting his fall: from whence he might espie his brother accompanied with a crue of armed men following him: amazed at this sight, as he stood gazing, his nose on a sodaine bled, which made him coniecture (as it was indeede) that there was some dangerous euent pretended. As soone as they were come within his reach, Valentine commanded the officers without further examination, to carry him to prison. Lyfimachus smiling both at the enuious treacherie, and reward of his brother, broekt all the iniuries of fortune with patience. Lying in prison all night, the next morning as soone as the day brake, taking a Cyttarne in his hand, he warbled out this moutnefull Sonnet.

*Lyfimachus Sonnet that he made
in prison.*

YOU restless cares companions of the night,
That wrap my ioyes in folds of endlesse woes,
Tie on my heart, and wound it with your spight,
Since Time and Fortune prooues my vtter foes.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe, the subiect of my layes.

Mourne

The Historie of

Mourne heauens, mourne earth, your seruant is forlorne,
Mourne times, and howers, since bale inuades by bowre,
Curse euery tongue, the place where I was borne,
Curse euery thought, the life which makes me lowre.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.

Yet drooping, and yet liuing to this death,
I sigh, I sue for pittie at his **shrine, *at the Lord of hostes,*
Whose mightie power can quicklie comfort breath,
And make my selfe thus not in woes to pine.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.

Meane while my sighes yeeld truce vnto my teares,
By them the winds increase and fiercely blow :
Yet when I sigh the griefe more plaine appeares,
And by their force with greater power doth glow.
Farewell my hopes, farewell my happie dayes,
Welcome sweet griefe the subiect of my layes.
Fortiter ille facit qui miser esse potest.

Having thus chaunted ouer his Sonnet, he heard the prison
dore open, whereupon he grew passing melancholie, and not
without cause, for the Tayler certified him that the Burgoma-
sters of the towne were assembled in the common hall, to heare
how he could cläre himselfe of the accusations which were
laide to his charge. At this Lyfimachus taking heart of grace,
being imboldned with his innocencie, he boldlie went with the
officers vnto the hall, with whom (as the nature of man is
desirous of nouelties) came a great prease of people to heare
the matter throughe canuased. When Lyfimachus was
thus brought befoze the barre, Valentine his brother who had
suborned these retchles roagues solemnie to depose that they
saw him prejudicially bent, began his inuective thus.

Lysimachus and Varrona.

I am soꝛy graue citizens and inhabitants of Idomene, that this day I am come to accuse my brother Lysimachus, whose vertues hitherto haue won him many fauours, and the outward shew of his good qualities hath been highlie applauded of all men: but my conscience constraineth me, not to conceale such hainous sinne, and the rigour of the law chargeth me not to smother by so great an offence without rebuke. This considered, I am forced to discover a wicked deede that this Lysimachus hath committed, and that is this. It chanced (as I walked solitarie downe my woods to see if any of my Cwes and Lambs (as it is my ordinarie custome) were stragled downe to the strand to browse on sea Iule, whercof they take especiall delight to feede) that my brother having conceived a secret resolution of some desperat plot, and could no longer hide fire in the flaxe, nor oyle in the flame (for enuie is like lightning that will appeare in the darkest fog) and seeing now opportunitie answerable to the performance of a mischief, thought best not to let it slip, but assaulted me with such violence, redoubting his stroakes with such courage, that had not the arriual of the officers been speedie, my death had been so-
daine. For pꝛoofe hereof, these men (pointing to the bꝛaggars) shall heere before you all make present deposition, and with that he reacht them a Bible, whercon being sold vnto sinne, and sworne to wickednes, they swore that Lysimachus was most pꝛeudicially bent. At which oath the people that were Iuroꝛs in the cause, believing the protestations of Valentine, and the depositions of the roages, presentlie found him guiltie, and Valentine and the rest of the Burghomasters gaue iudgement, that he should the next day at the Market place lose his head. As soone as Lysimachus heard the censure, he appeared for no mercy, nor abasht any whit, as one desirous of fauour, but liuing vp his eyes to heauen, only said thus.

O God, which seeest the secrets of all hearts, & knowest all things before they come to passe, which discernest the very inward thoughts, and triest the hearts & reins: Thou knowest that my brother hath slandered me with a crime,

C

whereof

The Historie of

whereof I was neuer guiltie, that he hath produced these two men by a sinister subornation to periuire themselves in a fault; whereas not so much as in thought, I committed such a fact; he hath to satisfie his malicious mind, without cause deuised this false crime. I confesse O Lord my selfe to be a most grieuous offender, and to deserue far greater punishment; but not for this deede. Hear then my prayer, and let the innocencie of my case pleade before thy diuine maiestie: if it be thy will preuent his practises, confound his counsels, and let him which hath digged the pit for others, fall into the snare himselfe. Thou hast neuer as yet O Lord left the succourlesse without help, but hast deliuered them which feare thee, from all aduersitie. Nay, who hath trusted in thy mercie, which hath come to mishap; or who hath put his hope in thee, and hath suffered haime? So O Lord if it be thy will, thou canst disclose the deuise of this my brother *Valentine*, and vnfold the follies of these false witnesses, help thou O Lord, for in thee is my trust. The people hearing the sollemne protestations of sorrowfull *Lysimachus*, thought he had spoken these words to excuse his fault, but not that he was guiltlesse of the fact, giuing more credit to the speeches of *Valentine*, and to the oathes of the men countenanced out by the *Bourgomasters*, then to the yeares of a yong man, supposing his speeches were more of custome to shake his follies, then of conscience to cleare himselfe of that crime, returned him backe againe to prison, till the day assigned for his punishment. Where being dayly griued, and yet smothering his sorowes with patience, he lay the rest of the day. When night was come, fortune that was carefull other champion began to smile, and brought it so to passe, that as *Lysimachus* was walking by the battlements of the Castell wherein hee was prisoner, he espied from whence he might leape downe without hurt, and so escape away with securitie. Glad of this as a man most valiant, and trusting to his fortunes, couragiously skipt downe with little perill, which being performed, he trudge amaine to

Lyfimachus and Varron.

to the sea shore, where boarding a Schoole which by chance there lay at Ancour, he boyled up Sayle, as having the winds somewhat benigne, purposing thither to direct his course, whither Fortune and *Aolus* would conduct him, whom for a while we will leave, and returne againe to Valentine.

The morrow was the day of punishment, and Valentine was so desirous to see the execution performed, that he passed the night with little sleepe: but as soon as Phoebeus had bayled the curtaine of the night, and made Aurora blush with gining her the *Bezelus labrae* in her silver couch, he got him up, and dispatcht an officer to the Taylor to produce his prisoner to execution, who returned him this answer, *Non est inuentus*. This newes drazne Valentine into a great melancholic, that presentlie he went to the Sheriffes, giving them to understand of this information, whose hearts were so set on fire, that they straight-raised all the countie, and made hue and crye after him. But Lyfimachus knowing full well the secret wayes that led unto the sea coast, stole away privilie through a part of the Province of *Mygdonia*, and escaped safe to the sea. Valentine seeing himselfe thus brought into a soles paradize, despairing of his brothers recourie, as a man carelesse what should become of him, took horse and rode home, where he trusted (seeing the stop was removed which galled him to the quicke) to end the currant of his yeeres in all contented quietnes: having heaved up to preimotion those two vassalles of sinne, whose lamentable fortunes, together with the principall member, shall at large hereafter be declared. These unexpected accidents compelled Lyfimachus to leave his native countie *Macedonia*, and in forreine places to purchase more favourable fortunes, with whome, wee will now begin.

Lyfimachus having for the space of thre or foure dayes sayled without descrying land, sole Lord over the vessell, as having none to comfort him, at last he might discover the

The Historie of

coast of *Theſſalia*, whereon (as a man loſtfull of land) he was caſt: vpon which ſaſtening the Minnre, he chanced on a path that led into the thicke of a Forreſt, where wandring without meate, he was almoſt ſamithed, at laſt hunger growing on ſo extreame, like a mad man he ranged vp and downe the woods, ſeeking to encounter ſome wilde beaſt with a Javelin which he made at his entrance into the thicket. He had not gone far, but he eſpied a Shepheard, deſirous therefore to be relieved by his fauours, he ſaluted him thus. Shepheard, for ſo far thy attire warrants me: courteous, for ſo much thy countenance imports: if a diſtreſſed perſon whom fortune hath wronged, and the ſeas haue fauoured (if I may count it fauour to liue and want) may without offence craue ſo far ayd, as to know ſome place where to reſt my wearie and weather-beaten bones, thanks thou ſhalt haue as thy due, and more thou canſt not haue, for my abilities deny me to perſourme a deeper debt. But if any wayes it pleaſe thee to command me, uſe me as far as the power of a poore Gentleman will ſtretch. The Shepheard hearing him ſpeake ſo grauely, made him this anſwere. Stranger, your degree I know not, therefore pardon if I giue leſſe title then your eſtate meriteth: Fortunes frownes are Princes fortunes, and Kings are ſubiect to chance and deſtynie. Miſhap is to be ſalued with pittie, not with ſcozne, and we that are fortunes darlings are bound to relieue them that are in diſtreſſe: therefore follow me, and you ſhall haue ſuch ſuccour as a Shepheard may afford. Lyſimachus was paſſing glad and Procyon (for ſo was the Shepheards name) led the way, who being deſirous to infer ſome occaſion of parly, began his prattle thus. If thou be a man of ſuch worth as I value thee by thy exterior lineaments, make diſcourſe vnto me what is the cauſe of thy preſent miſfortunes, for by the furrowes in thy face thou ſeemeſt to be croſt with miſhaps: but whatſoeuer or whoſoeuer, let me craue that ſanour to heare the tragick cauſe of thy eſtate. Lyſimachus ſeing by the Shepheards lookes that he was deſirous to heare the diſcourſe of his fortunes, briefly ſhaped him this replie. In that your
lookes

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

lookes sees my griefe, and your thoughts pittie my woes, my tongue shall giue you thanks (the bountie of sorowes tenant) and my heart pray that the gods may be as friendlie to your flockes, as you are favourable vnto me. Now I arrived here gentle Shepheard inquire not, least it be tedious so; thee to heare it, and a double griefe so; me to rehearse it. Procyon not willing to occasionate offence, as hauing affection portrayed in his visage, he conueyed him home to his house, as soone as he was arrived there, he began at the dore to entertaine him thus. Sir, this is my cottage whercin I liue content, and your lodging, where (please it you) you may rest quiet. I haue no rich clothes of *Egipt* to couer the walls, no; store of plate to discover any wealth, so; Shepheards vse neither to be proud no; couetous. You shall find heere chafe and milke so; dainties, and wool so; clothing, in euerie corner of the house Content sitting smiling, and tempering euerie homely thing with a welcome: this if you can brooke and accept of (as allow the meanest hospitalitie) you shall haue such fare as Philemon & Baucis gaue to Iuppiter. Lyfimachus thanked him hartily, and going into his house found what he promised. After that he had sat a litle by the fire & well warmed him, he went to supper, where Lyfimachus fed well, as one whom the sea had made hungrie, and so plied his teeth that all supper he spake not one word. After he had taken his repast, Procyon seeing him wearie, and that sleepe chimed on to rest, let him see his lodging, and so gaue him the good night.

The Sunne was no sooner the next morning stept from the bed of Aurora, but the Shepheard got him vp and went to his felds, where letting forth his sheepe, after he had espied where they should graze, he returned home, and looking when his guest should rise, hauing slept in the last night, went roundlie to his breakefast: by that time he had ended his *de iune*, Lyfimachus was gotten vp, against whose rising Odusa Procyons wife had shewne her cookerie, and the Shepheard tired in his russet iacket, no sooner had espied his guest coming out of his Chamber but bade him good morrow, with a looke not

The Historie of

so much vnfeigned as affectionate: whom after breakfast was ended, Procyon led forth to see his foulds, plodding thus ouer the greene fields, at last they came to the mountaines where his flocks grazed, and there he discoursed vnto him the pleasures of a countrie life, thus. Did you but (Sir) liue a while in this condition, you would say the Court were rather a place of sorrow then of solace. Here shall not fortune thwart you, but in meane misfortunes, as the losse of a few sheepe, which as it breeds beggerie, so it can be no extreame prouidence, the next yeare may mend all with a fresh increase. We drinke without suspition, and sleepe without care, enuie stirres not vs, we couet not to climbe, our desires mount not aboue our degrees, nor our thoughts about our fortunes. Care (as I said) cannot harbour in our cottages, nor do our homely courches know broken stumbers: as we receiue not ill diet, so we haue enough to satisfie. The Shepheard made Lysimachus so much in loue with the countrie life, that every day he led forth his flocks with such delight, that he held his exile happie, and thought no content to the blisse of a countrie cottage.

Lysimachus vsing thus daylie with bag and bottle to goe a field in more pleasant content of minde then euer he was in his owne countrie with Valentine his brother, it chanced on a day being inforced by the heate of the Sunne to seek for shelter, as he sat vnder the shadow of Limon trees, fortune (who is like the Cameliou) variable with every object, and constant in nothing but in inconstancie, thought to make him a mirrour of mutabilitie, and therfore still crost him contrarie. Thinking to recover his cottage, it fell out that certaine rascalls (who after they had foraged in the *Thessalian* confines) espying Lysimachus, and taking a generall suruey of his extraordinary lineaments, thought that he was very like for the performance of some bold attempt, and in time of necessitie no small assistance vnto their enterprises: whereupon thus resolved, they came rushing in, and laid violent hands vpon him, who seeing that all hope of libertie should be taken away if he yielded, thought rather to die in his owne defence,

Lysimachus and Varro.

Defence, that any way be deprived of such an especial privilege, and therefore dealt such blowes amongst them with his weapon, as he did witnesse well upon their carcases that he was no coward. But as *ne Hercules quidem contra daos*, so Lysimachus could not resist a multitude, having none to second him: so that he was not only batted, but sore wounded, and to be briefe perforce hopped a ship-board, where for the space of a day or two being with the Pirates carried into the huge Ocean, at length the states sitting downe in their synode to make Lysimachus happye, ordered so the matter, that maugre their beards (by a tempest which sodainely arose) they were cast againe upon the borders of *Thessalia*. This aduerse wind fatally sent for the purchasing of Lysimachus enfranchisement continued thus contrarie thre moneths, the violence whereof, with the strange accidents that during the continuance thereof befell, I referre to the *Annales of the Thessalians*, which dilate not a little of it. These Pirates thus by a stormie constraint being sore against their wills compelled to lye quiet at rode, at length through long continuance necessity began to haue eminencie, swaying all things with a check, and constraining them as tributorie to yeeld the soueraignetie unto her supremacie. Whilist thus they were taxed with want, they bethought themselves how that the present season cracted a warme coate, and a hot chimney; and therefore deemed it not unbecomable, if by the diligence of two or thre, that want might be supplied. Which being concluded, our weather-beaten souldier Lysimachus was inioyned (seeming that way desirous) to adde in that exploit his indulgence: who putting by all abuses with patience by the outward appearance, seemed so content with that present condition, as that little mistrust of reuenge in him was perceiued. Well, being come into the wood, Lysimachus thinking it his time to put in triall the assay of his redemption, heaued vp a sore bill which he had on his neck, and the first he stroke, had neuer after more neede of the Whistion, charging his blowes with such magnanimitie, that the slaues were amazed at his valour, so y^e in short time

The Historie of

time he had slain two, & left the third in such sort soze wounded, as that there was none or very little hope of his recoverie. Vasseng rid his hands of these his wellwillers, he had not so much care of executing his iniunction, as he had of escaping away with safetie, which as he perfozmed with great diligence, so it wrought his future contented happines. The Pirates after long expectation waited (but all in vaine) for the returne of their adherents, whom when they perceiued that euery houre they were more slack in hastening homewards, misdoubted (and not amisse) least some vnerpected casualtie might befall them, which when by their arriual in that place they found true, seeing Lyfimachus was absent, imagined that through his meanes these horrible dares were brought to passe, but not daring to make pursuit after him, for feare of leaping ouer the styes in transgressions, they rested patient, bearing vnto their galley three dead carcases (for by this time the suruiuer had yielded nature her due) to solemnize their funeralls with a watric buriall: what afterward betoad of the I cease to relate, in that I neither esteeme the persons, nor valew their actions.

By this time Lyfimachus was come within the view of his host Procyons cottage, vnto which he made with such celeritie, as the recoverie thereof was speedie: being entred, he found the Shepheard and his wife at vinner, whome after this manner he saluted. Gentle Shepheard, and courteous, tempered with the beautie of affabilitie, and the lineaments of thy face graced with the fauours of clemency, as many good fortunes to you and your wife, as your selues can desire or imagin. Procyon hearing one so superfine, looking backward perceiued that it was his guest Lyfimachus, whom (sodainly rising from the table) he entertained with as many fauours, as he tollerated his absence with colours, whereupon he took him by the hand, and bade him welcome, willing him to sit downe in his place, and in his roome not only to eate his fill, but as Lord of the house to thinke himselfe welcome: well, to be short, he fell eagerly to his victuals, and feasted himselfe with such eates as they had. As soone as he had victualled the
camp.

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

campe, the Shepheard and his wife were desirous to hear what hard fortune compelled him to be so long absent, requested Lyfimachus to discourse (if it were not any wayes prejudiciall unto him) the cause of his so long continuance. Lyfimachus (desirous to satisfie the courtesie of his favorable host, first beginning his *Exordium* with a volley of sighes, and a fewe luke-warme teares) prosecuted his discourse, and throughlie informed them of his misfortunes, how as he was sitting under a covert most pleasantlie situated, which with the thicknes of the boughes so shadowed the place, that Phoebus could not pierce into that harbour, so white were the tops of so thick a clo're, that Venus there in her iollitie might haue dallied vnseene with her dearest paramour. Fast by to make the place more gorgeous, was there a font, so Christaline and clere, that it seemed Diana with her Nriades and Hemadriades had that spring as the secret of their bathings. In this glorious arbore (I say) as I saie, it chanced that certaine rascalls comming a bootehailing into those parts discouered me, being discouered, haled me on ship-board, whither being haled, I had journeyed with them had not the winds in being more favorable forbad our course with their prosperous opposition. Lying thus still (quoth he) two moneths, at length necessitie grew powerfull amongst vs, which willed vs with labour to supplie those things that else by propagation would be perilous, whereupon my selfe with three more being charged to vndergo this enterprise, I supposed it not amisse being in a desert place, if I made hay while the Sunne shined, and took opportunity by the forelocks, and thereupon betooke my selfe to my weapon, minding in this resolution either to escape away with safetie, or valiantly to die immediately, rather then I would be returned back and kept in such seruaile subiection, as though I were the sonne of some countrie vassale, from whom as you see I am deliuered, and that with little prejudice. When Procyon heard this he fell on the neck of Lyfimachus, being exceeding ioyfull for his safe arrivall, being thereto moued by reason that (for sundrie vertues which he

The Historic of

some time in his honest simplicitie) he loued him exceedingly, and took an intimate delight in his company: wherefore with these words of true friendship he did embrace him.

Lysimachus, let not thy brothers unkindnes which thou hast felt, the inclemencie of thy kinne that I doubt hereafter thou shalt finde, nor the miseries whatsoever thou hast either passed, or doest endure, further appale thy spirit, then may be recovered by thy friends comfort. Thou knowest how dearly I have held thee, and what care euer since thy first sight I received of thy well doing, I had rather in action make knowne my love, then in words but wearie thy hearing: and albeit my abillitie cannot counteruaile my desire, yet in affliction I will not be wanting any waies vnto you. Lysimachus in a sudden passion surprized with this rare piece of friendship, after the recurrence of a little traunce, yielded him most humble thanks: adding moreover, that if euer fortune tyed her fauours in the top of his crest, he would not wound the remembrance of these his extraordinary courtesies with oblivion.

Resting thus in the house with the shepheards, to auoyd tedious conceits, he framed himselfe so to countrie labours, that he oft times would leade the flockes to the field himselfe, and being drest in homely attire, seemed like amorous Paris courting Oenone. Neere to this place dwelt the abouenamed Gentleman Syllanus, of great worship, greater possessions, but of greatest persecutions, so that it was doubted, whether he was more indebted to his parents for petigræ, to nurture for pietie, or to fortune for prosperitie, yet most chiefly he thought himselfe beholden to Nature, that had in his decaying yeeres, and decrepit old age, bestowed on him so precious a pearle and deere iewel as his yong daughter Varrona, admired at that time as the onely Paragon and Phoenix of *Thessalia*: which thing this good old fire perceiving, made him as carefull to bryede her, as ioyfull that she was borne, thinking within himselfe that as she was
notable

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

notable for her beautie, so should she be noted for her honestie: and seeing Nature had inuested her with so pleasing a personage, Nature should not denie her as plausible behaviour, and that she should be as sweete in manners, as seemely in making, which through his diligent performance afterwards came to passe.

This Varrona was the very picture and patterne of incomparable comelinesse, the perfect pece in whom nature played her prize against arte, and in whome her silent oratorie pleaded both for price and prize. This Paragon seemed to surpass the perfection of the rest amongst whom she was sorted, and amongst whome she shined as an orient pearle opposite to pebles, or Cynthias golden beames obscuring the twinkling starres: None erst looked on her, but loved her. Her stature was tall, and her golden-towered tresses wherewith her comely head abounded, were infolded with Unions and Orbes, with Diamonds and Chrysolites, saving some lawlesse locks amongst the rest hang loosely adorning her temples, being all prettily frilled, crisped, and tusked.

In her high forehead wherein no wrinkle appeared, Cupid had placed his Iuorie Bowe, on which her little eye-browes resembled Venus, beautified by the nere opposition of her black bearded Vulcan. What shall I stand in describing her eyes, those celestiall lamps, or her cheeks like damaske roses sprinkled with morning dew: in whose dimples were the Graces dwellings: What shall I recount her corall, daintie chinne, and allablastor neck: each part deserued praise, each member admiration. In sweete eloquence she resembled Cornelia: her looks were chearefull, yet chaste: merrie, yet modest: courteous, not contemptuous. Hercules Gallus had all mens eares linked in the chaine which he held in his hand, but Varrona held both their eares, tongues, and hearts, all men prattled of her, all prayed her. First, gazed they at the heauenlie bewe of her beautie, then at the excellencie of her brauerie, then wondered

D 2

then

The Historie of

they at the rarenesse of her courtisie, then they admired her passing good graces, then were they amazed at the specialitie of her fine behaviour, the twinkling of her eyes did so dimme their lesser lights, that they could neither sustaine to behold her, or abstaine fro beholding her. This Virgin, or rather Goddesse, euery day vsed to view the plaines wherein her fatheres sheepe were kept (as it hath bene already mentioned) in a skarlet petticoate, defending her face from the heate of the Sunne, with no other vaile, but with a garland made of boughes and flowers: which attire became her so gallantly, as that she seemed to be the Goddesse Flora her selfe so beautie. On a day as Lysimachus sat amongst the shrubs, by chance fixing his eyes on the glorious object of her face, he noted her tresses in such sort, that whereas heretofore he was a contemner of Venus, was now by the willic shaft of Cupid so intangled in the perfectio & beauteous excellencie of Varrona, as now he stroze no benigne Planet but Venus, no God but Cupid, no exquisite Deitie but Loue.

Being thus fettered with the pliant perswasions of fancie, impatient in his new affections, as the horse that neuer before felt the spurre, he could not bide his new conceived amours, but before he came to Procyons house where daily he did continue, he endured such a Metamorphosis in his mind, that he was constrained to crosse himselfe with these or the like contrarieties.

But stay: what newe motions are these Lysimachus? what heauie conceits, what dumpeish thoughts possesse thee? what strange and vnacquainted fits disquiet thee? what surie, what fiend torments thee? by whome, where, when did it come Lysimachus? Ah Varrona, Varrona, heauenlie Varrona, and nothing but Varrona! why how now? hast thou so long escaped the snares of beautie, and must thou now tast of the bait? hast thou gazed on so many faces, & none but this could fit thy fancie? accompanied heretofore so many gallants, yet none could please thee: descried so many behaviours, viewed so many vertues, and none could delight thee, none could ensue thee?

Lysimachus and Varrona.

thee? yea but stay Lysimachus, runne not too fast, least thou lose thy breath: wade not too farre sith thou art sure to sinke: yeeld not to loue, as thou louest thy life: kill it in the roote, or breake it in the bud, beware of the blossome, as thou tenderest thy safetie. Thou hast bene alwaies accounted the despiser of fancie, and wilt thou now be noted the desirer of beautie? thou which hast trod Venus under thy fete, wilt thou wzap therein thy heart? carst reiecting them as fluttish ragges, and now regarding them as the garments of a Coddessie? But Varrona, Oh sweete Varrona, the very patterne of Vertue, beauties lively grace, the onely Idea of Iupiters Dycame, and paragon of natures perfection.

By this time he was come home, and casting himselfe immediately on his bed, on a suddain started as one in an extasie, surprised with the notable view of some rare singularitie, or drowned as it were in a deepe sea of surpassing delight, and wholly contemplating the substance of Varrona, which he already most curiously had shadowed in his heart, he began to fall into a slumber, but loue impatient of delays and controlment, bestowed a sharpe arrow vpon him to aggrauate his soze that already was vncurable, which made him with a new supplie redouble his griefs, with this passionate part.

I see there is no stopping of the streame, but to force the greater flowing: no killing the vine by cutting it: the repressing of Cupids rage, is the moze to kindle affection. Ah cursed Cupid, ah vniust dietie, the restrainer of libertie, the maister of folie, the ouerthrow of honestie, a ruine of youth, an arch nemic to the whole world: hast thou none to picke, none to poison, but poore Lysimachus? then would I he were not Lysimachus, or else as he hath bene Lysimachus. But alas must I needs shake hands with libertie, and bid freedomie farewell, must my quiet weale become a malecontented warre? must my pleasures be passions, my songs sighes and sobs, my mirth melancholy, my moderate thoughts amorous conceits? Then farewell discretion where desire dwelleth: farewell wit, if will beare sway: and farewell counsaile, if loue be the Lawier. But why dost thou

The Historie of

argue with loue, saying thou hast not thy loue: assay rather to enioy thy loue, so that any way thou maiest ease thy loue. Ah but whom doe I loue? Varrona, easie to be wonne if she were not Varrona. But infortunate Lysimachus, if he winne not Varrona: yea but what hope canst thou haue of her amitie, with whome as yet thou hast no acquaintance: Cease therefore to surmise that which surpasseth thy sense, die rather with desire then liue for disgrace, for well maist thou loue Varrona, but neuer be liked of Varrona.

Lysimachus having thus tented his wound, and finding the hurt so desperate, yelded his maymed mind as a patient to be cured by Varronas onely mercie: perswading himselfe that there was none so daintie, none so losse, and none so cruel, but loyaltie with constancie might make them courteous. Howering in this hope he began to take heart a grace, assuring himselfe almost of that gaine that was not so lightly gained, but when he mustered in his conceits how Varrona was descended, how womens ears are not their tuchstones, but their eyes, and how a drem of honour weighs downe a pound of wit, how their hearts reacheth to the pulses of their hands, and let a man rub that with gold, and tis hard but they will proue his hearts gold, he was presently driuen into such dampes, and being as it were in a labozynth of thoughts, was faine to cease thinking. At the last comming to himselfe, he took it not amisse, if the next day he walked abroad to see if the fields would further his desires, or minister some matter to mitigate his maladie: but comming into the aire, the ague of lous disease began to shake him afresh, and made him sometimes hot, sometimes cold, sometimes in hope, and sometimes in feare; and thus at euery step in a contrarie thought, he heard the Nightingale record in her song as he surmised his passionate sorowes, and applying his tune to her note, he began to beare his part.

Should I accuse mine eyes that boldly gazed
On that faire object not to be obtained?

Or,

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Or, blame the worth in *Europe* wonder blazed,
That them to looke, and me to loue constrained?

Eyes for excuse alleadge preuailing reason,
Heart in extreames on fancies wrong exclaimed:
Hopes Sun shine clouded like obscurest season,
Yeelds to dispaire, at my misfortunes aymed.

Nature too lanish, outward graces planted,
Vertue too friendly, inward bounties sowed,
Yet those faire eyes of courteous lookes are scanted,
And Angels hue on tygers thoughts bestowed.
Tush, loue with griefes which did oppresse me fore
Is cause, that I my death like life deplore.

When Lyfimachus had warbled out those words, and
wrested the consideration of Varronas disposition, Venus wil-
ling to bestow vpon him the benefit of that friendly aspect, which
he most desired, ordered so the matter y^t Varrona according to
her vsuall manner did frequent the leas whercin her fathers
sheepe grazed, who with two other damosells sat vnder the side
of an hil, making a garland of such homely floures as the fildes
did afford. This sight so reuiued his spirits that he dyew nigh,
with moze iudgment to take a view of her singular perfection,
which he found to be such, as in that countrie attire she stained
all the countrie dames of *Thessalia*: while thus he stood gazing
with piercing lookes on her surpassing beautie, Varrona cast her
eye aside, and espied Lyfimachus, as yet altogether vnknowne
vnto her, which sodaine sight made her to blush, and to die her
chrystall cheekes with a vermilion red, which gaue her such a
grace as that she seemed farre moze beautifull. And with that
rising vp, Lyfimachus, (that could well skill to court all kind of
degrees, leaſt he might then be thought to haue little manners)
encountred them thus.

Ladies

The Historie of

Ladies beleue me, loue is of moze force then warres, and the lookes of women pierce deeper then the stroke of the lance, there is no Curtayl to keene, but armour of high proufe can withstand: but beauties arrowes are so sharp, and the darts that flie frō womens eyes are so piercing, as the Corset tempered by Vulcan for Didoes paramour, holds not out the violence of their strokes. The gods tremble when Mars shaketh his lance, but he feareth when Venus casteth a frowne. Alexander neuer took notice of the legions of his enemies, but he stood frighted at the beautie of the Amazon. When sweete saints of *Theffalia*, meruaile not if I were driven into a maze at the sight of such beauteous creatures, whose faces are Venus weapons wherewith she checketh the pride of ouer-daring warriours. I cannot (Ladies) court it as your gallant yongsters, that tie their wits to their fancies, nor fill your eares with amorous discourses, as Cupids apprentices, that spend their time in such louing philosophie. Nor can I faine conceited supposes of affection, to proue my selfe loue-sicke by poetrie, but as a blunt shepheard new come from the foles, I offer my selfe a deuout seruant to your beauties, swearing to defend your honours against all men with the hazard of my blood, and in patrone thereof, generally to you all, but specially to one (as loue hath his unitie) I desire to be entertained as a dutifull seruant to the Lady Varrona. Lyfimachus hauing thus boldly boorded these lovely virgins, the Ladies seeing with what affection he offered his seruice to Varrona, began to bite the lip, and she to blush, who seeing her selfe toucht to the quick, made this answere.

I know not (shepheard) how to answere of loue, because as yet I neuer knew loue: ignorant of his forces, because neuer acquainted with his fortunes. Vesta forbids vs virgins to name Venus, as they of *Ephesus* hatefull Erostratus. Diana doles not in *Paphos*, nor suffers she any of her maydens to hunt in *Ereynus*, least meeting with Venus meacocks, they skip with Calisto, and so seeke after losse. The lesse you are priuate to lous passions, the moze welcome to our presence:

Lysimachus and Varrona.

For rather had we fill our eares with Shepheards sonnets, then with lones solkes, and sweeter are the teares that grow from the losse of a sewe shepe, then a smile from a comicke tale of fancie. For your service (gentle swaine) finding my selfe unworthie, I crave pardon, but if it please you to be accepted as a worthie Shepheard, and my fathers friend, looke for such favour as my honour and virginitie can afford.

Lysimachus hearing the plausible answer of Varrona, although her first insinuation seemed to answer for his purpose, as preferring the labours of Diana, and fires of Vesta, before lones holy temples, yet she concluded so sweetly as might stand with the modestie of her honour, he therefore made thus his replie. In that Madame we are but novices in love, the simpler are our thoughts, and the nearer should be the simpathie of our affections. Doves match when they are young, siens are grafted when they are sprigs, the one part not but by death, nor are the other secured but they perish. Shepheards are like Virgins, the one striving to live vertuous, the other to die patientlie, both enemies to love, while they wait on those which broke not love, I meane labour, and Vesta. But both must love, as having hearts, and thoughts, eyes to see beautie, and eares to iudge of vertue: I Madame, while I thought none greater then Pan, was bowed to Pan, but seeing womens wits are more powerfull then he, I have resigned over my fortunes at his shrine, and meane to make use of the sweetness of love: glad that in my first entrance I have the patronage of your gracious favour, armed with the which, Mars well may frowne, but not conquer. But sir (quoth Varrona) I granted my favour to Lysimachus the Shepheard, not to Lysimachus the lover. And so (Madame quoth he) I accept of it, for I am a Shepheard to do you service, and a lover despite of my selfe. Varrona being a Lady of passing merrie disposition, hearing him thus to reason prettily, thought to list him in this manner. I see well (Shepheard) that as women have their favours, so men have their sayings, the one prodigall in graces, the other politick in deceits, bring

The Historie of

as cunning to dissimble loue, as we charie to discharge loue:
We thought to haue found you a flat Shepheard, as ignorant
in loues, as we of fancies, but how closely soeuer you couer
the flame, the fire will be knowne by the smoake. For your
talke so sauiours of loues principles, as we iudge you are as
cunning in faining a passion, as in folding sheepe, and can as
sone deceiue a woman with a pen, as adde a cure to a diseased
lambe. This will make vs to take you for a day friend, and
what we like in you present, to disallow to morrow, swearing
if you bring amongst vs Venus roses, we will beate you with
Vestaes nettles: and therefore if you will be admitted as our
Shepheard, we either forbid you to say no more of loue, or
else you shall be out of our fauours. If (Varrona) said he, thou
hadst enioyned me as Iuno did to Hercules most dangerous
labours, I would haue discovered my loue by obedience, and
my affection by death: with that pulling forth his Pipe, began
after some melodie to carroll this Madrigall.

What are my Sheepe without their woonted foode?
What my life except I gaine my loue?
My Sheepe consume, and faint for want of blood,
My life is lost, vlesse I grace approue.

No flower that saplesse thriues,
No turtle without pheare.

The day without the Sunne doth lowre for woe,
Then woe mine eyes vlesse they beawtie see,
My Sunne *Varrona* eyes, by whom I know
Wherein delight consists, where pleasures be.

Nought more the heart reuiues,
Then to embrace his deare.

The starrs from earthlie humours gaine their light,
Our humours by their light possesse their power:

Varrona

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Varrona eyes fed by my weeping sight,
Infuses my paines or ioyes, by smile or lower.

So wends the source of loue,
It feeds, it failes, it ends.

Kind lookes, cleare to your ioy, behold her eies,
Admire her heart, desire to tast her kisses:
In them the heauen of ioy, and solace lies,
Without them euery hope his succour misses.

Oh how I loue to proue,
Whereto this solace tends.

Scarce had the Shepheard ended this Madrigale, but Varrona began to frowne, saying, he had broken promise. Lyfimachus alleadged if he vttered any passion, twas sung, not said. Thus these two in an humorous descant of their prattle, espied a farre off other Shepheards comming towards them, so that he leaving the Gentlewomen, taking his leave friendlie of them all, but specially with a pittifull glancing looke towards Varrona, as crauing some fauour for his farewell, he stole to his Sheepe, & the damosels incontinently went home, who by the way recalled to mind the propozition of Lyfimachus, his not bulgar behauiour, adding besides that his gate was more stately then ordinarie Shepheards: moreover, a kind of maiestie that remained in his lookes, the seemelines of which did so shine farre aboue the rest, that all *Thessalia* supposed that he was Coridon, or one more fine then Coridon, sweet Phyllis her good man. When Varrona was come home, she tooke leaue for a while of her two friends, and Realing into her closet, she began to remember the diuine perfection of the Shepheard. Cupid waiting to spie this Mistall at aduantage, seeing her halfe at discouert, vnloosed a shaft, headed with desire, & feathered with conceit, which piercing the tender breast of this yong mayden, he made her shrink at the blow, and so breath out this complaint.

The Historie of

By me, now I see, and sorrowing sigh to see, that Dianas
 lawrels, are harbourers of Venus doves, that there trace as
 well through the lawns, wantons, as chaste ones, that Calisto
 be she neuer so chaste will cast an amorous eye at courting loue,
 that Diana her selfe will change her shape, but she will not ho-
 nour loue in a shadowe; maidens eyes, be they as hard as dia-
 monds, yet Cupid hath drugs to make them more pliable then
 ware. See Varrona how fortune and loue haue interleagued
 themselves to be thy foes, and to make thee their subiect or else
 their object, haue inuicigled thy sight, with a most glorious ob-
 iect. O late thou heldest Venus for a giglet, not a Goddesse,
 now thou shalt be forced to sue suppliant to her deitie: Cupid
 was a boy and blind, but alas his eye had aime enough to pierce
 thee to the heart. I haue heard them say, that loue looks not at
 lowe cottages, that Venus lets in robes, and not in rags, that
 her sonne flies so high, as that he scornes to touch pouertie with
 his heele. Such Varrona these are but old wines tales, and nei-
 ther authenticall precepts, nor infallible principles: for expe-
 rience tells thee, that peasants haue their passions as well as prin-
 ces: that swaines, as they haue their labours, so haue they their
 amours, & loue lurkes allone about a shepcoate as a pallace.
 And for those dames that are like Diana, that affect loue in no
 shape, but in a shewer of gold, I wish them husbands with
 much wealth and little wit, that the want of the one may ble-
 nish the abundance of the other. It sheweth staine the credit of a
 shepheards life to set the end of passions vpon pelfe. Loues eyes
 looke not so low as gold, there are no fees to be paid in Cupids
 courts, and in elder times the shepheards loue gifts were ap-
 ples and chestnuts, and their desires were loyall, and their
 thoughts constant. As she was thus debating the passions of
 her mind, one of her acquaintance interrupted her disquiet
 with his approach from the Duke her father presently to come
 to him: where for a while I will leaue her, and returne againe
 to tell you how the matter stood with Lysimachus.

Such was the inconstant sorrowe that he sustained to
 thinke on the witte and beaultie of Varrona, as that he be-
 gan

Lysimachus and Varrona.

gan to lose his wonted appetite, to looke pale and low in Great of
of mirth, to serue en melancholie : for countrie meriments, to
the cold dumps. In so much that not onely Procyon and his
wife Odrita, but all the whole village began to maruaile at his
suddaine alteration. thinking that some lingring sickness had
brought him to this state. ~~Wherefore they~~ caused Physicians
to come, but Lysimachus neither would let them minister, nor
so much as suffer them to see his vaine : but remained still so op-
pressed with passions, as he feared in him selfe a further incon-
uenience. His pouertie wished him to cease from such follies,
but loue forced him to followe fancies, yea and in despite of
pouertie, hee wanted the conquest. so that her hot desires cau-
sed him to find new deuises. For he presently entered his cham-
ber, where he began to put downe the passions of his pen to
this effect.

To the chastest Varrona continue all health.

MAdame, whether the sweet soft of our beautie, or the ver-
tue of your behaviour hath arrested my senses affecti-
on, I leave it to your sweetest sense to coniecture. But
this I feele (although benumbed in euerie part) that some
strange accident hath taken possession in the chiefe part
of my heart, vowing there to continue until he hath
conquered euery member of mine, and sworne that he
doe fealtie to your selfe, as their right soueraigne, and
true mistresse. Although I denied him not the affea-
gence of a most louing and faithfull subiect, yet such was
his rigorous iustice executed vpon me, that I should not
enjoy my former libertie, and wounding my thoughts
with the piercing rayes of your heauenlie countenance, let-
tered my conceits in the graces of best liking, permitting me
to liue onely to thinke on you. The bondage of my flauerie
did not so greatly dislike me, as the beholding of young
beautie did euerie way delight me: neither the straightnesse
of my fetters did put me to so great paine, as the remembe-
rance of my thought did procure my displeasure. As ho-

The Historie of

nour *Varrona* is it then a prison ? nay a paradise : to serue *Varrona* is it captiuitie ? nay rather a heauenly brauerie. Content (quoth I) I like, I loue, I honour *Varrona*, I feed, I liue, I die for *Varrona*.

Your loving captiue and true subiect,
Lyfimachus.

When Lyfimachus had written out his passionate fancies he carried the paper to the messenger, which he soz that purpose had prepared, desiring him to vse the best regard in deliuerie of it, wishing him not to present his mistresse therewith vntill he saw her in some pleasant vaine, soz he was in great feare least *Varrona* would rather rend then read it. *Toxeus* (soz so the messenger was called) expecting oportunitie, espied a time as he thought most conuenient, *Varrona* and two o2 thre Gentlemen merrilie discoursing of amorous philosophie, this messenger almost marnelling to see her so pleasant, thought it now the fittest time to make deliuey of his message, gaue her Lyfimachus letter, who perusing it to the first period, perceiued the practise of all, and beautifying her face with modest blushing, was halfe angrie with *Toxeus* that he made himselfe messenger of so vaine a matter, yet considering it came from that wo2thie shepheard, she vouchsafed it, and wished the messenger in the euening to come soz an answer. *Varrona* immediately vpon her man *Toxeus* departure perused it a thousand times, and a thousand times kissed it, till at last wrapping it in a white silke scarfe, she gaue it a place amongst her iewels of price: very glad therefore that Lyfimachus had giuen the onset, she determined to counterbufe him in this manner.

Varrona

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

*Varrona to Lyfimachus
health.*

WHen I read (kind *Lyfimachus*) thy Letters, and spied thy loues, I blusht at mine owne thoughts, and sorrowed at thy fortunes. I search not the cause of thy loue, for it sufficeth me thou doest loue, if it lay in me, either to grant thy desire, or satisfie thy passions. Thy comelincesse (*Lyfimachus*) knockes at the closet of my heart, thy exquisite feature sue for their maisters libertie: thy loyaltie enters pele mele with my thoughts, and giueth a sore assault to my settled resolution: all these put in their pleas, doe purchase fauour for young *Lyfimachus*. But *Vesta*, hard hearted *Vesta*, that makes her virgins pliant to her owne properties, commaunds that I shut mine eares against such alluring Syrens. I count my selfe greatlie fauoured with the loue of so worthie a swaine, and ouer will *Varrona* coyet to prooue as thankfull, as he affectionate: onely in loue pardon me, for that I neuer mean to fall into that predicament. Wade not therefore where the foord hath no footing, barke not with the wolues of *Syria* against the Moone, looke not to climbe to *Olympus*, way not at impossibilities, but pacifie that with patience, which thou canst not obtaine being passionate. If thou thinkest these denials be but words of course, and perswadest thy selfe that women will be first coy, and then courteous, as the marble that drops of raine doe pierce, thou shalt (sweete heart) deeply deceiue thy selfe, and highly wrong me. In a word, I wish quiet to thy thoughts, and an end to thy loues.

*Thine euer but in loue,
Varrona.*

Varrona hauing thus ended her letter, she deliuered it to Toxeus, who sending him speedely to *Lyfimachus* lodging, found him very melancholy, and all God wot was about Varrona. *Lyfimachus* hauing receiued the letter, entered into

The Historie of

into his Chamber, and read the contents. So sooner had he viewed and reuiewed ouer her cruell determination, but in a great extasie of minde he cried out (*Dulcior est mors quam amor:*) and with that singing out of his Chamber, he fell into bitter, and extreame sorowes. Procyon grieuing at his friends hard fortune, sought with plausible perswasions to appease his furious melancholie, wishing him whatsoeuer Varrona wrote, till to thinke her a woman, that would one while thrust out fauour with a finger, and straight entertaine loue as a friend: that either time, or his constancie would make her stoop to the lure of his desires. Thus sought the Shepheard to wrest him from his passions, but in vaine, for her answers confirmed with such perswasure determinations so quietted the conceit of his hope, that going melancholie to his bed, loue left him to his quiet slumbers which were not long, for as soone as Phoebus shaking his dealwe lockes on the mountaines, had posted from the watry cabbin of Nereus, summoning plow swames to their handie labour, Lysimachus rose, and with Procyon went into the fields, where unfolding their sheepe, they sate them downe vnder an Olive tree, both of them diuersly affected, Lysimachus ioying in the excellencie of Varrona, and Procyon sorowing for the griefes which Lysimachus sustained, not quiet in thought till he might heare of his health. As thus both of them sate in their dumps, they might espie where Varrona with her two Gentlewomen tript amongst the lawnes. At this sodaine spectacle, as a man metamorphosed, he lightly sprang from the ground, desiring to salute the sole mistres of his thoughts: wherefore willing the Shepheard to expect his returne, he bowed her with this kind of greeting; giving her likewise the *Boniorio* thus.

Gentle Nymph, all haile, and as prosperous be you in your enterprises, as you happie in content. If I be blunt in discouering my affections, and use little eloquence in telling out my loves, I appeale to the Rine of veritie which knoweth no subtilties, to frame my selfe therefore to your countrie fashion, with much faith, and little flatterie. Know beautifull Varrona,

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

rona, that befoze I saw you I knew not loves cumber, but held affection as a toy, not as a maladie, vsing fancie as the Hiperborej do their flowers, which they weare in their bosomes all day, and cast them into the fire for fuel at night. I liked all, because I loued none, and who was most faire, on her I fed mine eyes, but as charlie as the Bee, that as soone as she hath suckt honey from the Rose, straight flies to the Marigold. Liuing thus at my owne list, I wondred at such as were in loue, and when I read their passions, I took them only for poems that flowed from the quicknes of their wit, not the sorowes of the heart. But now faire Nymphe loue hath taught me such a lesson, that I must confesse his deitie and dignitie, as there is nothing so pretious as beautie, so there is nothing more piercing then fancy. For since my eye took a curious suruey of your excellence, I haue been so fettered with your beautie and vertue, as (swete Varrona) Lyfimachus without further circumstance loues Varrona. I could point out my louely desires with long ambages, but seeing in many words lies mistrust, and that truth is euer naked, let this suffice for countrie wooing, Lyfimachus loues Varrona, and none but Varrona. Although these words were most heauenlie harmonie in the eares of the Nymphe, yet to seeme coy at the first courting, and to disdaine loue, howsoeuer she disdaind loue she made him this replie.

Ah Lyfimachus, though I seeme simple, yet am I more subtiler then to swallow the hooke, because it hath a painted bait: as men are wise, so women are warie, specially if they haue that wit by others harmes to beware. Do we not know Lyfimachus, that mens tongues are like Mercuries pipe, that can inchaunt Argus with an hundred eyes: and their words as prejudiciall as the charmes of Circes, that transformed men into monsters? If such Syrens sing, we poore women had neede stop our eares, least in hearing we procure so foolish hardie, as to belieue them: and so perish in trusting much, and suspecting little. Lyfimachus *Piscator idus sapit*, he that hath bene once poisoned, and afterwards feare not to

The Historie of

bowle of every potion, is woorthie to suffer double penance. Give me leaue to mistrust, though I do not condemne. Lysimachus is now in loue with Varrona, he a Shepheard of meane parents, she a Lady of great parentage: he poore, she honourable. Can loue consist of contrarieties? Will the Falcon pearch with the Batresse: the Lion harbour with the Wolfe: Will Venus ioyne robes and rags together: or can there be a sympathie betweene a King and a begger: When Lysimachus, how can I beleue that loue should vnite our thoughts, when fortune hath set such difference betweene our degrees: But thou likest of Varronas beawtie. Men in their fancie resemble y^e Malpe, which scornes that flower frō which she had fetcht her war: playing like the inhabitants of the Iland *Tenerifa*, who whē they haue gathered the sweet spices, vie the trees for selwell: so men, hauing glotted themselves with the faire of womens faces, hold them for necessarie evils, and wearied with that which they seemed so much to loue, cast away fancie, as children do their rattles: and loathing that which so deaplie before they liked, especially such as take loue in a minute, and haue their eyes attractive like iet, apt to entertaine any object, are as readie to let it slip againe. Lysimachus hearing how Varrona harpt still on one string, which was the doubt of mens constancie, he brake off her sharp inuective thus.

I grant Varrona (quoth he) many men haue done amisse, in prouing some ripe, and some rotten, but particular instances infer no generall conclusions: and therefore I hope, what others haue faulted in, shall not preiudice my fauours. I will not vse sophistrie to confirme my loue, for that is subtiltie: nor long discourses, least my words might be thought more then my faith: but if this will suffice, that by the trust of a Shepheard, I loue Varrona, and wooe Varrona, not to crop the blossomes, & rect the tree, but to consummate my faithfull desires in the honourable end of marriage. At this word marriage, Varrona stood in a maze what to answer, fearing if she were too coy, to driue him away with her disdain: if she were too courteous, to discover the heate of her desires; in a dilemma thus what to do, at last this she said,

Lysima-

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Lyfimachus, ever since I saw thee, I favoured thee, I cannot dissemble my desires, because I see thou dost faithfully manifest thy thoughts, & in liking thee, I have thee so far as my honour holds fancy still in suspence, but if I knew thee as vertuous as thy actions do pretend, and as well qualified whereof you make demonstration, the doubt should be quickly decided, but for this time to give thee answer, assure thy selfe thus, I will either marrie with Lyfimachus, or still live a virgin, & with this they streined one anothers hand. He having his answer, gave a courteous adew to them 3. but specially to Varrona, & so playing loth to depart, he went to Procyon, who all this while attended his coming, unto whom Lyfimachus made a true relation of all those things which passed betwene them, aduertising him of the lenitiue remedies which she applied vnto his maladious spirit, whom we will for a time permit to meditate on his singular expectations, and returne vnto Syllanus, Varronas father. He having intelligence of the secret meetings which these two louers daily vsed, being exceeding much displeased, vpon a day as he walked into his Garden, by chance he met with Varrona, accompanied with diuers Gentlewomen, whom saluting very grationously, he passed by them, and taking his daughter by the hand, walking aside with her into an open greene walke, fell into this talke with her.

Why huswife (quoth he) are you so idle tasked that you stand vpon thornes vntill you haue a husband: are you no sooner hatched with the Lapwing, but you wil run away with the shel on your head: some pricks the tree that wil proue a thorne, and a girle that loues too soone wil repent too late. What a husband: why the maydes of Rome durst not looke at Venus temple till they were 30, nor went they vnmasked till they were married, that neither their beauties might allure other, nor they glance their eyes on euery wanton. Egypt is plagued with a dearth, I tell thee fond girle when Nilus ouerfloweth befoze his time, the trees that blossom in February, are nipped with the frosts in May: vntimely fruits had neuer good fortune, & yong Gentlewomen that are wooed and wonne ere they be wise, sorrow and

The Historie of

repent before they be old. What seest thou in Lysimachus that thine eye must chuse, and thy heart must fancie? Is he beautiful? why sond girle, what thy eye liketh at moone, it hateth at night: loue is like a bawen but a blaze: and beantie, how can I better compare it then to the gorgeous Cedar, that is onely for shewe, and nothing for profit: to the apples of Tantalus that are pzeious in the eye, and dust in the hand: to the starre Artephilax that is most bright, but fitteth not for any compasse: so yong men that stand vpon their outward portrayture, I tell thee are pzeuidiciall: Demophoon was sayre, but how dealt he with Phillis? Aeneas was a bzaie man, but a dissembler: all but little worth if they be not wealthie. And I pray thee what substance hath Lysimachus to endue thee with: hast thou not heard that want breakes amitie, that loue which beginneth not in gold, doth end in beggerie: that such as marrie but to a faire face, tie themselves oft to a soule bargaine? And what wilt thou doe with a husband that is not able to maintaine thee? buy forsooth a dram of pleasure with a pound of sorrow, and a pinte of content with a whole tunne of pzeiudiciall displeasures? But why doe I cast stones in the ayre, or breathe my words into the wind, when to perswade a woman from her will is to roule Sisyphus stone: or to tie a head-strong girle from loue, is to tie furies againe in fetters. Therefore huswife as you tender my affection I commaund you to surcease those vaine and idle matters, which please me as much as the singing of a waspe: and shall profit you as little, as fire to coole your thirst. And with that in a rage he flung away not admitting her replie.

Varrona perceiuing her fathers good will thus alienated from her, fearing a further inconuenience, did in humilitie submit her selfe to his disposing, not vsing any longer her accustomed walkes. Which Lysimachus perceiuing, mused greatly what should become of his loue; sometime he thought she had taken some word vnkindly, and had taken thapet, then he imagined some new loue had withdraue her fancie, or happilie she was sicke, or detained by some great business of Syllanus.

These

Lysimachus and Varrona.

These conceits did Lysimachus cast into his head, who having love in his heart, proved restless, and without patience that Varrona wronged him with so long absence: for love measures every minute, and thinks hours to be daies, and daies to be monethes, till he feeds his rics with the sight of his desired object. Thus perplexed lived poore Lysimachus, while on a day sitting with Procyon in a great dumpe, he was credibly informed by Toxeus of those sorrowfull accidents: at which being sodainely surprised with griefe, and fixing his eyes on the starrie concave, began thus in their presence to utter passionate complaints, not limiting his lamentations with distinct clauses, for his moane admitted no methode.

Injurious heavens (quoth he) hath your influence effected this misfortune: inuict gods, haue you in enuying this my prosperitie, depriued me of the view of that wherein I imagined my whole felicitie should consist: O gentle Cupid hast thou denning my Varrona fairer then thy Psyche, thwarted thus my doating humour? I will wander through the earth augmenting the springs with streames of my teares, filling the woods with rebounding Echoes of my woes, tracing the plaines with my restless steps. O that I might equall Orpheus in art, as I excell him in anguish! the powerful vertue of his beautifull tunes amazed furious beasts, staid flüet streames, raised stones, assembled trees, mouing sense in senselesse things. Descending to the silent vaults of Acheron, he caused ghostes to groane, shadowes to sigh, effecting relētting thoughts in hels remorselesse iudges. But were I his phœre in that profession, I would do more, enforcing Syllanus her father not touched with such a sympathie, to leaue his suspition, and grant me my loue: whither do I wander? As this to rest: leaue Lysimachus: may proceed Lysimachus: cease to suppose, begin to sorrow: O me, wretched me, hopelesse, hopelesse, what meanes can I now conceit, what deuile may now be potted? Hereat he slept, and opening the flood-gates of his eyes, distilled a shewer of teares, supplying his speeches with deepe sighes: But resolving to proceed, he was interrupted by the shepheard: who hearing the

The Historie of

woords of his complaints, lamented at the occasion of his sorowes, & sought by all meanes to extirpate out of his memozie the remembrance of these casualties, assuring him that time being the touchstone of loue, would no doubt sort all things to his content: and so (quoth he) you see it is time to fold our flockes, with that they put their sheepe to their coats and went home: but he perceiued soule that had lost his last star, and his thoughts set on fire with the flar of lanie, could take no rest, but began to ruminate daily vpon the inuention which Varrona had receiued from her father. Remaining in this pitifull plight, feeding on nothing but heauie dispaire, he became so changed in his bodie and soule, as though they had bene now departing. But by good hap his mourning being overheard by the good shepheard, and finding him so transformed, most speedie informed Varrona thereof. She hauing taken diligent notice of this his information, admired greatly at the constancie of his affection, and seeing her father vpon urgent affaires was rode to the Court, she deemed it not amisse herselfe to goe and visit him. Who calling vpon Lysimachus with a shrill voice, recovered him better with her woords, then with all the potions or hot drinckes she could deuise to giue him. Lysimachus staring her in the face, muttered (as it seemed) to himselfe, but remained speechlesse, but she with great care comforted him (as a woman want no good woords in such a case) and brought him againe to the vse of his tongue, where with he soultred out these woords.

Oh Varrona ! cruell dispaire hath so mangled my swete hope, that vlesse I finde some speedie remedie, the wound will growe incurable, and willing to goe forward his breath failed him. Lysimachus (quoth she) as I am ignorant of the cause, so I am sorrowfull for thy disease: and I would I had as much power to heale thy extremitie, as will to perforce it, if it shall not preiudice the glorie of my credit, or blemish my honour: therefore if it be in my hands to better thee, assure thy selfe to enioy the benefit, the honour of my name alwaies excepted.

Lysimachus

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Lyfimachus pausing a while thought it best to discover himselfe, and presently to receive the consent to life, or the reply to death (for his life & death did depend in her answer) & praying she rest to depart, with a sighing spirit, and trembling there, disclosed himselfe.

Al my sweete Varrona, in whose answers is seated my heaven or hell; to recount to you my sorowes, or repent my loue, can neither ease me of the one, or further me in the other, seeing your selfe shall appeare a witnesse in them both. Although that reason did somewhat prefer me, by the benefit of seemely government, keeping in subiection the untamed appetite of furious affections, yet confirming it by my owne eyesight, the manifold graces wherewith Dame Nature hath mightily enriched you, I found my thoughts so fiercely assaulted, that either I must yeld to be your captiue, or else die in the combat. Vea the glittering beames of your heavenly perfections so pierced my heart, that I was forced to forsake reason, to followe affection: and to forgoe libertie, to live in bondage: if it may be termed bondage, to serue with loue such rare excellencie. Having tasted so much of Iancies cup, and the drinke dispiercing it selfe into euery part, I felt such passions in mine vnacquainted conceits, that nothing but the remembrance of your sweetest sake, could procure my ease, fully resolved to serue, loue, and honour Varrona, till the destinies of death should denie me. Tumbling in the extremitie of these strange passions, and hearing that thy fathers suspicion, or rather iealousie of our late united sympathie, doth watch like Argus ouer Io, unwilling that thou shouldst passe beyond the reach of his eye, vnlesse as he thinks thou shouldst overreach thy selfe, my contents were turned into delapes complaints, and my pleasure was apt in this labyrinth of grievous lamentations: but now noting the extremitie of thy fortunes, I find that Venus hath made thee constant to requite my miseries, and that where the greatest onset is giuen by fortune, there is strongest defence made by affection.

Thus

The Historie of

Thus I doubt not but thy father in watching thee, over-waketh himselfe, and (I hope) profiteth as little, as they which gaze on the flames of *Aina*, which vanish out of the sight in smoake. Varrona throughlie vnderstanding his rare and ruthfull discourse, with weeping eyes, and sorrowfull chere, embracing him in her armes, after a sugred kisse, gaue him this swete comfort.

The heauens *Lyfimachus* by their miraculous working haue taken truce with our affections, whose diuine influence, I thinke by some secret contemplation do seeme to conclude our loue. It may be I haue been liked of some, and flattered of many, but neuer deserued of any, but only of thee *Lyfimachus*, whose life, loue, and loyaltie, may iustly claime an interest in the fauourable consent, and constancie of thy *Varrona*. *Lyfimachus* hearing this beauenlie harmonie, was so ravished betwene ioy and feare (so he feared least it had bin but a dreame) that he was not able to vtter one word, but at last sensibly perceiuing that it was no vision, but the veritie of his desires, staying himselfe by her hand, concluded thus.

Ah swete *Varrona*, the only reuiuer of my dying spirit, although neither heauen nor earth can affoord me thanks sufficient to requite thine honourable fauour, yet shall the zealous truth and tried loue of *Lyfimachus* affections encounter the gloxie of *Varronas* beaوتie. And I vowe by the heauens, that when *Lyfimachus* shall let his eye slip from thy beaوتie, or his thoughts from thy qualities, or his heart from thy vertues, or his whole life from euer honouring thee, then shall heauen cease to haue starres, the earth trees, the world elements, and euery thing reuerfed shall fall to their former Chaos. Having thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in *Thessalia*, so that *Syllanus* consent would neuer be granted to so meane a match, *Varrona* determined as soone as time and opportunitie would giue her leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich and costly iewels for the easier carriage, and then to transport themselves and their treasure into *Thracia*,
where

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

where they would leade a contented life, vntill such time as either she should be reconciled to her father, or else by succession, (being the sole child her father had) come to the Dukedome. This deuise was greatlie praised of Lyfimachus, for he feared, if the Duke her father should but heare of the contract, that his furie would be such, as no lesse then death would stand for painment. He therefore told her that delay bred danger, that many mishaps did fall out betwene the cup and the lip, and that to auoyd anger it were best with as much speede as might be to passe out of *Thessalia*, least fortune might preuent their presence with some new despight. Varrona, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch her affaires with as great haste as either time or opportunitie would giue her leaue, and so resting vpon this point after many embracings and sweete kisses they departed.

Varrona hauing taken her leaue of her best beloued Lyfimachus, went immediately home, her merrie countenance giuing no suspicion of mistrust at all. Lyfimachus poore soule was no lesse ioyfull, that being a Shepheard, fortune had fauoured him so, as to reward him with the loue of a Ladie, hoping in time to be aduanced from that condition, to be the husband of a rich Princeesse. So that he thought every houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger, not ceasing still to go euery day to his Sheepe, not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire he had to see his loue, and sweete heart Varrona, who oftentimes when opportunitie would serue priuately repaired thither (albeit her fathers prohibition to the contrary) to feede her fancie with the sweete content of Lyfimachus presence. And albeit she neuer went to visit him but most secretly, yet her oft repaire made her not only suspected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours, who for the good will they bare to old Procyon, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to aduertise Lyfimachus of it, that he would if it were possible restraine his libertie. In the meane time Varrona was not slacke in her affaires, but applied her matters with such diligence, that she provided all things fit

The Historie of

for their iourney. Treasure and Jewels she had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then money in a strange country: rich attire she had provided for Lysimachus, and because she could not bring the matter to passe, without the help and aduise of some one, she made the old seruant of hers called Toxeus, who had serued her from his childehood priuie to her affaires, who seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert her from her setled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretlie in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a Ship readie for their passage. The Mariners, seeing a fit gale of wind for their purpose, wished Toxeus to make no delays, least if they pretermitted this good weather, they might stay long ere they had such a faire winde. Toxeus fearing that his negligence should hinder the iourney, in the night time conueighed the Trunkes full of treasure into the Ship, and by secret meanes let Lysimachus vnderstand, that the next morning they meant to depart: he vpon the newes slept very little that night, but got him vp early and went to his sheepe, looking euery minute when he should see Varrona. Now see the valiancy of a virgin, or rather consider the force of loue, which maketh the weake strong, the witlesse wise, the simple subtle, yea, and the most cowardes most couragious. For that morning Varrona attired her selfe in one of her Pages apparell, and trudge out of the towne, as if she had been sent on some message, and so fast as her faint legges (but strengthened by loue) could carrie her, she halsted through the woods to the fields, where the saint whom she only honoured was readie to receiue her: who though at the first he knew her not, but thought she had been Cupid or Mercurie fallen from the heauens, yet at length by her louing looks cast vpon him, he knew who it was, and embracing her fast in his armes, said; If Iupiter (swete wench) should see thee in this Pages apparell, no doubt but he would forgoe his Ganymede, and take thee vp into heauen in his chaire. O most soueraigne Ladie and Mistres, what seruice shall I be able euer to do you, which may

Lysimachus and Varrona.

may counteruaile this kindnes: what dutie can be a due recompence to this good will: If I by any meanes can requite this curtesie, I neuer doubt to be deemed vngatefull while I live. But accept (good Ladie) I beseech you, that which is in me to perfozme, which is, the faithfullst heart that euer was bowed to Ladie, which when it swerueth from you, let the torments of Tantalus, Tytus, Syfiphus, and all the ruthfull rout of hell be heaped vpon me. Varrona hearing him so earnest, said.

Few words (most worthie Lysimachus) are enough to win credit to a matter already believed: soz only vpon confidence of your constant & faithfull heart towards me, I haue thus vnauidely aduentured mine honour as you see, desiring you not sinisterlie to thinke of this my attempt, being boldned thereto by the great loue which I bare towards you, & by the loyaltie which I looke soz of you towards me. Ah (said Lysimachus) if I should make any ill interpretatiō of your vertuous loue and sincere affection towards me, I were the veriest villaine on earth: soz I take God to wilnes, I take your sozward will soz such friēdly fauour, that I doubt my deserts will neuer be able to answer thereto as I desire: and with that he aptly ended his talk vpo her mouth. Now frō thence they posted to the hauen where the Ship lay, not daring any longer to stay soz feare of apprehension by posts which should be sent after the. Whither so soone as they were come, the Partners were readie with their Cock-boate to set them aboard, where being coucht together in a cabbin, they hoisting their maine sailes weighed anchor, and haled into the deepe, hauing a lustic gale in the poope which draue them gallantly sozward. Went on the next morning about the breake of the day, the aire began to be sereneast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearefull tempest as the Ship was in danger to be swallowed vp with euery sea, the maine mast with y violēce of the wind was throwne ouer-board, the sayles were torne, the tackling went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poze Varrona was almost dead soz feare, but that the

The Historie of

was greatly comforted with the presence of Lysimachus. The tempest continued three daies, all which time the marriners every minute looked for death, and the ayre was so darkened with cloudes, that the maister could not tell by the compass in what coast they were. But upon the fourth day about nine of the clock, the wind began to cease, the sea to waxe calme, and the skie to be cleere, and the marriners descryed the coast of *Arcadia*: shooting off their ordinance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearful tempest. Lysimachus hearing that they were arrived at some harbor, sweetly kissed Varrona, & bad her be of good courage, being set on land, and rewarding the marriners bountifully for their paines, they sojourned in a little village a mile distant from the sea, where after they had rested for a day, they made provision for their marriage, which according to the sacred rites was solemnely celebrated: which being performed, putting on pilgrims apartell, they went hand in hand, and heart in hart, wailfully and wilfully wandring in that unknowne countrie *Arcadia*, to avoide further punishment and displeasure.

See (gentlewomen) the lamentable lot of loue which drave Varrona from her pleasant pallace, from her flourishing friends, from her traine of seruants, from her sumptuous fare, from her gorgeous garments, from varietie of delights, from secure quietnesse: yea from heavenly happines, to wilde wilderness: to desert dens, to careful caves: to hard chere with halves and hipps, to pilgrims pelts: to perill of spoiling, to danger of deuouring, to miserie of mind, to affliction of bodie, yea to helish heauinesse. pitties parent: to prefer his owne hate before his childes loue, his owne displeasures, before his childes pleasures, to forget that himselfe was once yong and subiect to loue, to measure the fire flames of youth by the dead coals of age, to gouerne his child by his owne lust, which now is, not which was in times past. To seeke to alter his naturall affection from his daughter upon so light a cause, shewing himselfe a rebell to nature, to vndo the destinies, and disappoint the appointment of the Gods, shewing himselfe a traytor to them.

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Two or three dayes being passed, and noe newes heard of Varrona, Syllanus assured of her escape, cryed out as a man halfe lunaticke, he was by Lyfimachus robbd of his onely iewel, whereupon in a despairing furie he commanded Procyon to be sent for in all hast. Who maruailling what the matter should be, began to examine his owne conscience, wherein he had offended the Duke, but imboldned with his innocencie, courageously went to the pallace: whither as soone as he came, he was not admitted vnto the presence of Syllanus, but presently sent to prison. Many passionate thoughts came into his head, till at last he began to fall into consideration of Lyfimachus follies, and to meditate with himselfe: leaning his head on his hand, and his elbow on his knee, full of sorrow, grief, and disquieted passions, he resolved into these tearmes.

Unhappie Procyon, whome too much courtesie hath led to these misfortunes, and vaine credulitie wasapt in the maze of these calamities. Now I see, but alas too late, that the smoothest tales for the most part haue put small truth, that the foulest skin is couered with faire paintings, that vice lieth obfuscated in the cinders of honest simplicitie. Woe worth the day wherein my eie offended in the prodigallitie of her sight: woe worth that I pittied his distresses, relieved his wants, took compassion of his necessities, succoured his state, entertained him, favoured, affected him, and approued his behauiour. All these I greatly feare, will if not ruinate my selfe, yet make shipwacke of my credit and liking with the Duke, so that by liuing I shall die to want, & by death purchase such a name of infamie as neuer shall be forgotten: be penitent, & assign thy life some penance to discomur thy sorrow, & pacifie his wrath. In the depth of this his passion, he was sent for to the duke, who with a looke that threatned death, intertained him & demanded of him where his daughter was. Procyon made answer, that indeede Lyfimachus was too familiar with Varrona his daughter: whereupon I feareing the worst (quoth he) about 3. or 4. dayes past verie sharply rebuked him for his saucinesse: adding moreover, that if it were not left, he would bring both vpon himselfe extreme preiudice,

The Historie of

and eternall confusion vpon me and my wife: now the next morning after, I neither heard of him or sawe him. Syllanus perceiuing the mans vnfained simplicitie, let him depart without incurring further displeasure, concealing such secret griefe for his daughters rechelesse follie, that she had so forgotten her honour, and parentage by so base a choice, to dishonour her father, and discredit her selfe, that with verie care and thought he fell into a quartain feuer, which was so vnfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake, as the Physicians would not grant him no life. And one day being in his agonie he breathed out his griefs in this sorrowfull sort.

If nature by the diuine providence of God, did not moue vs to the maintenance of mankind, surely the charge of childre is such a heauie burden, that it would feare men from entring into the holy state of matrimony. For to omit the inconuenience of their infancy, which are infinite, when they drawe once to mans estate, what time they should be a stay to our staggering age, good God with what trouble do they torment vs: with what cares do they consume vs? what annoyces doe they afflict our decaying yeares withal? They say we are renewed and renewed as it were in our offspring, but we may say we die daylie in thinking of the desperate deedes of our children. And as the spider feeleth if her webbe be prickt but with the point of a pinne: so if our children are touched but with the least trouble that is, we feele the force of it to pierce vs to the heart. But how well this tender care is by them considered, alas it maketh my heart blinde to thinke. If we looke for obedience of them, and that they should followe our counsaile in the conueigh of their affaires, why they imagine we doate, and their owne wits are farre better then ours. If we warne them to be warie and thirte, they thinke it proceedeth rather of conetousnesse then of kindnesse: if we prouide them no marriages, it is because we will depart with no liuing to them: if we perswade them to marriage, it is because we will haue them to forsake all good fellowship, and liue like clownes in the countrie by the plough-taile: if we perswade

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

perswade them to learning, it is, that they might liue by it without our charge : if we perswade them to one wise rather then an other, it is because the one is richer then the other. If we looke seuerely to them, we loue them not: If we vse them familiarly, we feede them with flatterie, because we will giue them little: and so of all our louing doeds they make these lewd deuises: yea when we haue brought them vp with great care and cost, when we haue trauailed all our time by sea and by land, earcly and late, in paine and in perrill, to heape vp treasure for them, when we haue by continuall toyle shortned our owne liues, to lengthen and enlarge their liuings and possessions, yet if we suffer them not to royst and to ryot, to spill and to spoyle, to lauish and to consume, yea and to follow the furie of their owne frantick fancies in all things, this forsooth is our recompence, they wish an end of our liues, to haue our liuings.

Alas, a lamentable case, why hath not nature caused loue to ascend as well as descend? why hath she indowed the Storke with this propertie, to feede his damme when she is old, and men with such malice to wish their parents death when they are aged? But I speake perchaunce of my owne proper grieffe, God forbid it should be a common case: for my daughter (why doe I call her daughter) hath not onely wished my death but wrought it. She knewe she was my onely delight: she knewe I could not liue, she being out of my sight: she knew her desperate disobedience would bryue me to a desperate death. And could she now so much doate on a poore shepheard, to force so little of her louing father? Alas a husband is to be preferred before Father and Friend: but had she none to fire her fancie on but a Swaine, the sonne of I knowe not whome? Alas loue hath no respect of persons: yet was not my good will and consent to be craued therein: alas she saue noe possibilitie to obtaine it.

But now alas, I would grant my good will, but it is too late,

The Historie of

late, her feare of my furie is too great euer to be found, her fault is too great, euer to looke me in the face any more, and my sorrow is too great, euer to be salued. And thereupon got him to be very heauilie affected, dayly bewayling the losse of his daughter Varrona, with whom I do now begin.

The Sunne sojourning in his winter mansion had disrobed *Arcadia* of all her pleasures, and disgarnished Vestaes mantle of delights variable choice, wherewith Flora had in plentie powdered the freshnes of her earst Greene hue. Night suited in a duskie robe of pitchie darkenes, besieged the globe with long shadowes, while Phoebus wanting wonted bigour, did by darting his scarce reflected beames, afford small comfort to the earths increase, so that *Arcadia* earst the soveraigne seate of all content, and sole place of worlds perfections, seemed now a patterne of the ancient Chaos, wherein all things (if things) were confounded. fields flowerlesse, trees leauelless, ground heatelesse, brookes streamelesse, springs unhaunted, groues unhalowed, augmented this hue of horrour, blemish of *Enrops* paradise. The mayden huntresse *Arcadiaes* patronesse, did seldome trace the plaines guarded with her troupe of virgin knights, to fire shafts on the flying beasts, whose wont was in time of heavens more milde aspect, to grace the fields with her daily presence, and when her brothers scorching heate tired her limbs with faintnes, to bath her chaste bodie in some pleasant brooke. Nor did the wanton Satyres lightlie skipping on the painted meades, (painted I meane by natures wookenmanship) vaunt their bodies agilitie to the fairie wood-Nymphs. Pan, *Arcadiaes* president, pend vp himselfe in his winter lodging, and the other rurall powers seeing their glories date ended for that yeere, shrouded themselves in the place of their wonted repose. In this season, a season well fitting their melancholie thoughts distracted with moodie passions, Varrona and Lyfimachus, the maps of fortunes mutabilitie, left their countrie, wandred in middest of winters rage surcharged with sorrow, the extremitie whereof made them haplesse abjects, while rough Boreas winters benchman mustering

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

tering legions of stormes, scourged the plaines with a troupe of tempests, and aimed his violent blasts at the tallest trees to lop their heights pride, and combatting with his companions, filled the aire with dreadfull noyse of their tumultuous encounter; these infortunate lovers, in whose minds lone martialled millions of striving passions, thus wandring, whom fancie tost in a boundlesse Ocean of perplexing thoughts, ceased not their trouble till the weathers intemperate furie calmed by heavens milder influence, took truce with time, and sealed the attonement with a sodaine change. But when Phoebus renuing his yearly taske, and denying longer residence to stormie winter, had pierced earths entrailles with comfortable warmth, opening a fruitfull passage for the issue of her wombe, to cloath Pomonaes branches with natures bountie, and diapre her owne mantle with Floraes sense-alluring pomp; Lyfimachus and Varrona entred the maine continent of *Arcadia*, where seeing the late hue of horrour turned to an heaven of eyes happines, they redoubled many sighes draine from the depth of their wofull hearts centre: for remembryng that Tellus was earst dismantled, the trees bereaved of their blossomes beautie, earths naturall deities anatomized by time, in the place where frostie Hyems had displayed her ycie trophies, they lamented to thinke that these tokens of wozlds mutabilitie, had recovered their former flourish by the yeres timely alteration, but their desperate fortunes (as they imagined) had no hope of any happie spring to calme the winter of their woes. Drownd in these deepe meditations, they proceeded pensive, but they had not walked farre, when they espied a faire broad Lake, whose spacious branches environed the ground lying vnderneath with a shade circle. There they determined to rest a while their bodys wearied by long iourneis, and somewhat disburthen their soules by displaying their sorowes.

As thus they were discourting of their fortunes, they beheld as they looked back an Arcadian, and by his habit seemed a Shepherd, who over-hearing the last words of their complaints, and aiming (though amisse) at the occasion of their sor-

The Historie of

rowes, thought that being strangers he lamented y^e losse of their way, to which imaginatioⁿ applying his words, he began thus.

Friends (for so I may tearme you without offence) the day is almost spent, and the night being dangerous for such as you are, or at least seeme to be, I meane strangers: accept then a simple lodging in my cottage, with such homely fare as Shepheards houses yield, and when to morrowes Sunne shall display his bright (though late forcelesse) beames, ye may prosecute your intended iourney, wherein if my directions may further you, ye shall find me ready to afford them. They wondering at such rare humanitie harboured in those contemptible weeds, made a long pause as if they had enioyned their mouths to perpetuall silence, at last Lytimachus thapt him this replie.

Friend (for so your proffered courtesie bindes vs to tearme you) muse not that sob's interrupt my words, or sorrowes season my discourse, which onely comfort my fates haue assigned me. What we were we list not now to repeate, what we are, you see, we grieve: a lodging in your cottage we gladly accept: your countrie fare we wil thankfullie receiue; your directions wil be needlesse, for we wander thus vp and downe to light on some cottage, where I and my wife, with this our seruant may dwell, for we purpose to buy some farme, and a flock of sheep, to become shepheards, meaning to liue low, & content vs with a countrie life: for I haue heard some say that they drink without suspicion, & sleepe without care. And if this double fauour do proceed from you, then in requitall of your courtesie, first, we beseech Iupiter Xenius the patron of hospitalitie, and protector of strangers, to blesse our labours, prosper our attempts, and enrich your store with hoped plentie: next, we bow by that bright lamp heauens ornament, that if fortune (as she is neuer stable) raise vs from so low an ebbe to the wonted height of our good hap, we will remunerate your kindnes with most ample recompence. Alexis (such was the Shepheards name) seeing maiestie in their looks, grauitie seated in disguise, royaltie suited in base attire, gathered by these probable coniectures, that they could be of no meane degree; moued therefore with a deeper remorse, he courteously intreated them to repaire to his
simple

Lysimachus and Varrona.

simple lodging, and remaine there till fortune should convert her frownes into sauiours, protesting that though he could not entertaine them as the qualitie of their condition required, yet he would supplie in good will the disabling defects of his low estate; and for the buying of a ffarme (quoth he) ye come in good time, for my Landlord intends to sell both the ffarme, hill, and the flocke I keepe, and theape ye may haue them for readie mony: which wrought such cheeresulnes in their hearts, that they yielded him millions of thanks, and accompanied him to his house. Into which when they entred, they found it not gorgeously emboss, yet gailie trimmed: not courtlie, yet comely: though homely, yet handsome: and they were kinde welcommed by Alexis wife, who greeted them with a merrie countenance, being by her husband certified of their fortunes.

The next moone they lay long in bed, as wearied with the toile of vnaccustomed trauaile; but as soone as they got vp, they resolved there to set vp their rest, & by the help of Alexis, swapt a bargaine with his Landlord, and so became maisters of the ffarme, & of the flock, her selfe putting on the attire of a Shepherdesse, and Lysimachus of a yong swaine, both esteemed famous amongst y^e Shepheards of *Arcadia*. Living thus iointly together, they began to be as Ciceronicall, as they were amorous, with their hands thrust conetung to satisfie their hearts thirst, & to be as diligent in labours, as they were affectionate in loues, so that the parish wherein they liued so affected them for the course of their life, that they were counted the very mirrors of a Democraticall methode. Living thus in a league of vnited vertues, fortune enuyng their prosperitie, raised vp one Marchander to race & beate down if it were possible, the firme foundation of their faithfull building, and biding together.

For this Marchander glauncing his gazing eyes on the blasing beautie of Varrona, receiued so deepe an impression of her perfection in his heart, that immediately he fixed his fancie vpon her comely corps. And being the chief ruler of the citie, he perswaded himself that there was none in that town so stout, but would stoupe at his lure: no, any so faire, but would faine

The Historie of

employ theſelines to pleasure him: but one the other ſide, the renowned vertue of Varrona came to his mind, which perſwaded an impossibilitie to his purpose: and floating thus betwene hope and despaire, he entred into these tearmes.

W miferable wretch that I am, to whom shall I addresse my complaints? Is it the heauenly power & gods of loue that haue deprived me of my senses, & shewed their diuine working in me? Or is it the hellish hags, and spirits of spight, that bereaued me of reason, & executed their crueltie on me? Is it loue that lea-
deth me to this lust? Or is it hate y^e haleth me to this hurt & mis-
chiefe. No, no, the Gods guide vs to goodnes, the furies of hell they force vs to filthines: neither doth that any way deserue the name of loue, which bringeth such torment to my troubled minde, y^e all the diuels in the world could not performe the like. But see my rashnes, why am I so blindly bold, beastly to blas-
pheme against y^e which proceeds altogether from nature, which nature hath imparted to all men, and which I ought to follow without repining or resisting: so long as I follow nature as my guide, I cannot doe amisse, & seeing nature hath taught vs to loue, why should I not rather proue her precepts, then re-
buke that which by natures loze is allowed? And touching tor-
ment of mind, or other inconuenience that it bringeth, is it all able to impaire the least comfort which I shall enioy in em-
bracing my Varrona? Is it not meete that he which would reape, should sow, he that would gather frute, should plant trees, he that would reach the sweete rose, should now and then be scratched with the sharpe briers? I meane, is it meet, if I purpose to possesse so proper a peece as Varrona is, y^e I should eschew labours, or refuse any perrill in the pursute thereof? And hereupon he determined to follow the furie of his fancie, what pangs or danger soeuer he thereby indured, & hauing resolved many waies in his mind how he might aspire to his purpose, at length he resolved vpon this, to institute a sumptuous banquet: whereto he invited the chiefe of the citie, amongst whom Lysimachus & his wife Varrona were not forgotten, the onely au-
thours of the feast. Now for the more royall receiuing of his
guests,

Lyſimachus and Varrona.

gueſts, he met them at the entrie into his pallace, and gaue them this greeting.

Faire Ladies, as I am right ioyfull of your preſence, ſo am I no leſſe ſorrowfull for the paines you haue taken, in vnder-taking ſo great a iourney this darke and miſtie evening, for the which I muſt account my ſelfe ſo much the more beholding to you, by how much greater your labour was in coming, and by how much leſſe your cheere ſhall be able to counteruaile it now you are come. And taking Varrona by the hand, he ſaid ſoftlie vnto her. I pittie the paines of theſe gentlewomen the leſſe, ſo that you were in their company, whole piercing eyes, as celeftiall ſtarres, or heauenly lamps, might ſerue for lights in the darke, whole ſweete face might perfume the aire from all noyſome ſunells which might annoy them, & beholding your liuely looks, & perfect ſhape, they might take ſuch delight, that the wearineſſe of the way could nothing moleſt or grieve them. Varrona hearing her ſelfe ſo greatly praiſed or ſo great a perſonage as he was, could not keepe the roſes red out of her alablatter cheekes, & thinking no ſerpentine make to lie hid vnder theſe merrie & ſugred wordes, ſhe gaue him this courteous anſwer. If ſir the company had made no better prouiſion for lights, and other things neceſſarie, then ſuch as you ſpeake of, they might ſoone haue ſlipped into the mire: but as I perceiue by your wordes, you are diſpoſed to reſt, and be merrie, ſo I am content for this once to be made the inſtrument thereof, thereby to eaſe ſome part of the paines which you are like to take in receiuing ſuch troubleſome gueſts as we are: and for our cheere you neede take no thought, for it ſhall be ſo much too good for vs, by how much leſſe we haue deſerued any at all your hands. After this amorous encounter, he cauſed the company to ſit downe to the banquet, and ſo diſpoſed the matter that Varrona ſat at the table right ouer againſt him, whereby he freely fed his eyes on that meat which conuerted rather to the noiſhment of ſickneſſe, then to wholeſome humours of health. For as the ſmeſt meats, by one in extremitie of ſickneſſe, reſolue not to purge blood, to ſtrengthen the bodie, but to watryſh humours to ſed the feuer



The Historie of

and disease, so though her face and looks were fine and sweet, and brought delight to all the beholders eyes, yet to him they wrought onely torment & vexation of mind. And notwithstanding he perceived her beauty to breed his bane, and her looks to procure the losse of his libertie, & that as the Cocatrice by sight only slaieth, so she by courteous countenance only killed & wounded his heart, yet would he not refraine his eyes from beholding hir, but according to the nature of the sickly patient, which chiefly desireth that which most of all is forbidden him, he so incessantly threw his passionate glances towards her, that his eyes were altogether bleared with her beautie, and she also at the length began to perceive his loving looks towards her, which made her looke pale, in token of the little pleasure she tooke in his toyes, & of the great feare she had lest some other should mark them, whereby her good name might come in question. The banquet being ended, eury one of the prepared themselves to heare a stage play, which was the readie to be performed: But Mæchander being able to play but one part, which was of a poore distracted lover, determined to goe forward with the tragedie already begun betwene Varrona and him, and seeing her set out of her husbands sight, placed himselfe by her, and entered into reasoning with her, to this purpose.

If (faire Varrona) this simple banquet had bene so sweet and pleasant to your seemely selfe and the rest, as your sight is delightfull to me, I am perswaded you would not have changed your cheer for Nectar and Ambrosia, which the Poets faine to be food of the gods, but seeing there was no cause of delight in the one, & the other containeth that in it which may content the Gods themselves, I shal desire you in good part to accept the one, and courtcously to accept me worthy to enjoy the other. And though I have not heretofore by dutifull service manifested unto you the loyaltie of my love, yet if my poore hart could signifie unto you the assaults which it hath suffered for your sake, I doubt not but that you would confesse, that by force of love I had won you, & were worthy to weare you. For albeit by humane lawes your husband onely hath interest in you, yet by
natures

Lysimachus and Varrona.

natures lawes, which being moze ancient, ought to be of moze authoritie, he ought to enioy you, which ioyneth most in you: which loneth you best, & endureth most paine for your sake. And for praise of natures lawes, may it please you to consider the qualitie of the she wolfe, who alwaies chooseth that wolfe for her make, who is made most leane and foule by following her: besides that, my tittle marcheth vnder the ensign of iustice, which is a vertue: giuing to euerie one according to his deserts: & that the reward of loue is onely loue againe, I know you are not ignorant. For all the Gods in the world are not able to requite good will, the one belonging to the mind, the other incident to the bodie: but from the equitie of my cause I appeale to your good grace & fauour: and at the barre of your beautie, I humbly hold vp my hands, meaning to be tryed by your owne courtesie, & my owne loyaltie, & minding to abide your sentence either of consent vnto life, or denial vnto death. *Varrona* hearing this discourse, looked one while red for shame, another while pale for anger: neither would disdain let her make him answer, nor grief giue her leaue to hold her peace: but standing in a maze, betwene silence and speaking, at length she brake of the one, and burst out into the other in this sort.

If (sir) your banquet had bene no better, then this your talke is pleasant vnto me, I am perswaded the dishes would haue bene taken whole from the table without touching: but as the one was far better then the company deserved, so the other, for a far worse woman might moze fitly haue serued: & if your sweet meat haue such sower salve, the next time you send for me I will make you such an answer as was made to Craterus the Emperour by Diogenes, when he sent for him to make his abode with him in his court: who answered, he had rather be fed at Athens with salt, then to liue with him in all delicacie: so for my part, I promise you, I had rather be fed at home wth bread & water, then pay so deerly for daintie dishes. Touching the paines you haue endured for my sake, I take your words to be as false towards me, as you would make my faith towards my husband: But admit they were true, seeing I haue not bin the cause of the,

The Historie of

I cannot not my selfe bound in conscience to countervaille them, only I am soye they were not bestowed on some more worthie your estate, and lesse worthie an honest name then my selfe, which being the chiefe riches I haue, I meane most diligently to keepe. The interest which cauellingly you claime in me, as it consisteth of false premises, so though they were true, yet the conclusion which you infer thereof followeth not necessarily. For were it so that your loue were greater towards me then my husbands (which you cannot induce me to beleue) yet seeing he by order of lawe hath first taken possession of me, your title succeeding his, your succession & late must needs be cold & naught: for as your selfe saith of lawes so of titles, the first are euer of most force, and the most ancient of most authoritie. Your woluishe example though it shew your sorely bzaire, yet both it enforce no such pꝛofe to your purpose, but that by my former reason it may be refuted, for that the wolfe is free from the proper possession of any: but therein truly you obserue *decorum*. in vsing the example of a beast in so brutish a cause: for like purpose like pꝛofe: like man like matter.

Your manly marching vnder the ensigne of iustice, if reason be your Captaine generall to leade you, I doubt not but some to turne to a retire: for if it be good will which you beare me, I must needs grant you duly deserue the like againe, but when you are able to pꝛoue it good will to deflowze my chastitie, to bereaue me of my good name, to dispoile me of my honour, to cause me to transgresse the bonds of honestie, to infringe my faith towards my husband, to violate the sacred rites of Matrimonie, with other innumerable enormities, when I say you are able to pꝛoue these to pꝛoccede from affection, then will I willingly yeeld consent to your request. But see the vnreasonableness of your suite, would you haue me in shewing courtesie towards you, commit crueltie towards my selfe? Should I in extending mercie to you, bring my selfe to miserie? Should I place you in pleasure, and displace my selfe of all ioy? For what solace can a woman purchase, having lost her chastitie, which ought to be the ioy, it well, and ienime of all

Gentle

Lyfsmachus and Varrona.

Gentlewomen of what calling and countenance soever: Your appeale from your owne cause to my courtesie, betwrayeth the naughtinesse thereof: for if it be not ill, why stick you not too it: if it be good, why appeale you from it? But seeing you haue constituted me iudge in this case, you know it is not the part of a iudge to deale partially, or to respect the man more then the matter, or to tender more my owne case then your cause: therefore indifferently this sentence definitiue I giue, I condemne you henceforth to perpetuall silence in this suite, and that you neuer hereafter open your mouth herein, being a matter most vnseemely for your honour, and most preiudiciall to my honestie: and in abiding this sentence (if you can be content with honest amitie) for the courtesie which I haue found at your hands, and for the good wil which you pretend to beare me, I promise you you shal enioy the second place in my heart, and you shall finde me friendly in all things, which either you with reason can aske, or I with honestie grant. Machander hauing heard this angell thus amiably pronouncing these words, was so rapt in admiration of her wisdom, and ravished in contemplation of her beautie, that though she had not imioyned him to silence, yet had he not had a word to say: and least his looks might betwray his loue, and his countenance discover his case, he secretly and sodainely withdrew himselfe into his chamber, to studie what face to set on the matter: and casting himselfe vpon the bed, after he had dreamed a while vpon his doating deuises, at length he awaked out of his wauering thoughts, and recovering the possession of his senses againe, he sung this mournfull Dittie.

Mechanders Sonnet.

O Cupid thou, which doest in hauty skies,
Amongst the great and mightie gods sojourne:
And eke that present art with terreine wights,
To cause their hearts with louers lawes to burne.

The Historie of

To thee O God, whose bowe and golden shaft
Doth wound both gods, and men alike :
And causdest euery one, to yeeld themselves to thee,
And subiects to become, for all *Dianas* spite.

To thee I make, and sweare my fixed vowe,
If I by help of thee, my wished ioyes attaine :
Then must I onely praise thy mighty bowe,
And subiect will to thee alwayes remaine.

By this time the Play was ended, and his guests readie to depart, wherenpon he was driuen to come forth of his chamber, to take leaue of them : and bidding his mistres good night, he gaue her such a looke, that his very eyes seemed to pleade for pittie: so that what his tongue durst not, his eyes did. His guests being gone, he disposed himselfe to rest, but loue willed him otherwise to employ that night, which was in examining particularly eury point of her answer. And though the first part seemed somewhat sharp and rigorous, and the second contained the confutation of his cause, yet the third and last part seemed to be mixt with mettall of moze milde matter, which he repeated to himselfe a thousand times, and thereupon, as vpon a firme foundation, determined to raise by his building againe, which the two former parts of her answer had vtterlie ransackt to the ground. But mistaking the nature of the soyle whereon the foundation was laid, his fabrike (as if it had been set in the sand) sone came to ruine: for by that promise of friendship, which she kindly made him, he sinisterly conceined hope of obtaining that, which she neither with honour could promise, nor with honesty performe: and feeding himselfe with that vaine hope, in great brauerie, as in a manner assured of the victorie, he wrote vnto her to this effect.

Alchander

Lysonachus and Varrona.

Machander to Varrona, wisteth what he

wants himselfe.

ALbeit good mistres, you haue inioyned my tongue to silence, yet my hands are at libertie to bewray the secrets of my heart: and though you haue taken my heart prisoner, yet my head hath free power to pleade for release and reliefe. Neither would I you should count me in the number of those cowardly souldiers, who at the first Canon that roareth, giue over the siege, for I haue been alwayes settled in this opinion, that the more hard the fight is, the more haughtie is the conquest, and the more doubtfull the battaile, the more doughtie the victorie. And as it is not the part of a politike Captaine to put himselfe in perill, without hope of gaine or praise: so to winne the bulwarke of your brest, I count it a more rich bottie, then *Cesar* had in ransacking so many Cities: and a more rare praise, then euer *Alexander* had in subduing so many nations. And though my presumption may seeme great in assaulting one as is your sweete selfe, yet seeing in all degrees of friendship equalitie is chiefly considered, I trust you will cleare me of crime that way: neither would I you should thinke my flight so free, as to stoop at every stile. For as the haughtie Hawke will not pray on carion, so neither will courtlie silks practise countrie fluts. But because I know that to be in you, which both concerneth my calling, and consenteth with my fancie, I haue chosen you for the goddesse of my deuotions, humbly beseeching you, that it may not be said your name hath bin called vpon in vaine, whereby you may loose that honour which I in zeale doe owe vnto you. The benefit which you bestow on me, in granting me the second place in your heart, as I must acknowledge, though somewhat vnthankfullie, so must I craue a greater, though somewhat impudentie. For in giving me your whole heart and bodie are yours, me thinkes it better to say, than to say, I am your amends. Weigh the matter vprightly, and consider it with a courteouslie, and take compassion on me speedily.

Yours altogether Machander.

The Historie of

To this letter he annexed this passion.

MY boate doth passe the straights
of seas incenst with fire:

Fild with forgetfulnesse,
amidst the winters night :

A blind and carelesse boy,
(brought vp by fond desire)

Doth guide me in the sea
of sorrow and despight.

For euery oare, he sets

a ranke of foolish thoughts,

And cuts (in stead of waue)

a hope without distresse,

The windes of my deepe sighes

(that thunder still for nought,)

Haue split my sailes with feare,

with care and heauinesse.

A mightie storme of teares,

a blacke and hideous cloud,

A thousand fierce disdaines,

Doe slacke the tacklings oft,

Till ignorance doth pull,

and errour hale the shrowd,

No starre for safetie shines,

no Phoebe from aloft.

Time hath subdued art, and ioy is slaue to woe,

Alas (loue-guide) be kind, what, shall I perish so ?

Varrone hauing receiued and read this letter, was as-
sailed diuersly: sometimes with sorrow, in thinking on the time
she first saw him, or he her: sometimes with repentance of her
former promise made him: sometime with pittie on his part:
some

Lysimachus and Varrona.

*Sometimes with pittie on her stone: but at length pittie ban-
quished pittie, and caused her to send this rough replie to his
letter.*

*Varrona wisheth to Macbander remorse of
conscience, and regard of benefits.*

THe little account you make of me, and my good will,
I perceiue by the little care you haue to satisfie that
which I gaue you in charge. You would ill haue done as the
knight *Varle* did, who at the cōmandement of his Ladie *Li-
fia* forbore the vse of his tongue, and remained dumbe the
terme of three yeares. But as you subtilly think to discharge
your selfe of my iniunction, by writing, and not speaking, so
by writing I simply do you vnderstand, that si ò henceforth
you looke for no more fauour at my hands, then at stran-
gers, I will not say an enemies. For seeing my promise was
but vpon cōdition, the cōdition being violated, my promise
is void. And seeing you haue plaied the pelting marchant
venturer, to hazard that good will and credit you haue had
with me, to get more, the tempest of my iust displeased mind
hath driuen your sute against the rough rockes of repulse,
and you haue made shipwracke of al. Your couragious per-
sisting in your purpose, proueth you rather a desperate sot
then a discreet souldier: for to hop against the hill, & striue
against the streame, hath euer bene counted extreme folly.
Your valiant venturing for a pray of value, proceeds rather
of couetousnes then of courage: for the valiant souldier see-
keth glory, not gaine: but therein you may be fitly resem-
bled to the caterpillar, which cleaueth onely to the good
friute: or to the moath, which most of al eateth the best cloth:
or to the canker, which cōmonly breedeth in the fairest rose.

The equalitie which you pretend to be betweene vs, is al-
together vnequall, for both you exceed me in degree, and I
excell you in honesty: for neither in calling or quality, ther
is any equality between vs. Whereas you haue chosen me for
your goddesse, I beseech you suffer me to remaine an earth-
ly creature: and serue you that God which can bridle your

The Historie of

wanton desires, and giue you grace to giue your neighbours leaue to liue honestlie by you, least you take his name in vaine, who will verily punish your vanitie at the length, though for a time he suffer you to wallow in your wickednes. For it is the prudent policie of God, to suffer the sinfull long time to swim in their sinne, to make their downfall more hideous, by their sodaine shrinking from prosperitie to aduersitie. For that is euer most bitter vnto him, who hath long time liued in prosperitie: neither must you thinke that that which is deferred is taken way. For as your selfe or any other, that oweth mony, though you defer your creditor for a time, yet you defraude him not altogether of his due: so, though God take daies with you for a time, yet assure your selfe he will pay you at the length: yea and perchance with large vsurie, besides the due debt. And this good counsaile take of me, as the last benefit which you shall euer receiue at my hands.

Yours nothing at all,

Varrona.

Marchander hauing seene this rigoorous resolution of his mistresse, went another way to worke, he suborned an old woman of the citie, wel seene in soliciting such sutes, to go vnto her and present her from him with many rich iewells, all which (he wiled her to tell) he would willingly bestow for one simple consent of her good will. The old woman bedlame (beloam I would haue said) hauing done his shamefull message, said of her selfe in this sort.

Surely mistresse Varrona, if the experience which old yeares haue giuen me, might craue credit for the counsaile which I shall giue you, I would not wish you to refuse the friendship of such a one as is Marchander, who is able to fill your purse with pearles, and fulfill you with pleasures every way. Neither is it wisdome for you to spend your golden yeares, but in a golden pleasure, and not to be tied to one diet which bringeth sacitie
and

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

and loathsomnesse, but to haue choice of change which bringeth appetite and lustinesse.

The chaste eares of Varrona not able to endure this base discourse, she cut off her ghostly counsel with these inuective words. Gentlewoman if you were endued with as many good conditions as you haue liued yeares, you would neuer haue undertaken so shamefull a message: and were it not more for reverence of your yeares, then in respect of your errand, I would make your filthie trade of life so famous, that you should euer hereafter be ashamed to shew your face in any honest companie. What doe you thinke, though mony can make you a bawd, that it can make me an harlot? and though you for gaine see no filthynesse, that I for glorie follow no faithfulnessse either towards my spouse and husband, or towards my Lord and God? Doe you iudge me so couetous of coine, or so prodigal of my honour, that to get the one, I wil lose the other? Doth he that sent you thinke so obiectie of me, that gaine may more preuaile with me then good will, mony more then a man, lewells more then gentlenessse, pearles more then troubles which he hath endured for my sake? So let him vnderstand, if any thing could haue caused me to swarne from my ductie, loue not lute should haue allured me thereto. But as I am fully resolved, faithfully to keepe my bolue, and promise made to my husband, so I beseech him not to bestow any more labour in attempting that, vnto which he shal neuer attaine: for before this my resolution shall be reuered, he shall see the dissolution of my bodie into dust. But if he will not thus giue ouer his sute, he will cause me to make those priue to his dealings, who will make him ashamed of them: and for your part, packe you hence with this your trumperie, to those which measure their honour by the price of profit, and their glorie by the guerdon of gaine. This good old subaudi gentlewoman being gone away with a flea in her eare, Varrona began to thinke on the matter with aduised deliberation, and entered into reasoning with her selfe in this sort.

What

The Historie of

What fearefull folkie is this in me to contemne the friendship of so great a Lord, whom the fairest Lacie in this land would willingly receiue for husband, and I rigorously refuse for seruant? What is that honour whereupon I stand so stiffly? Shall it not rather increase my dignitie, to haue so noble a seruant? And what is that chastitie which I seeke so charily to keepe? Do not some men say, that women alwayes liue chastly ynough, so that they liue charily ynough: that is, so that they conueigh their matters so couertly, that their doings be not commonly knowne: for otherwise to incontinencie were added impudencie; likewise for a woman to enter in conuersation with a rascall of no reputation, cannot be but a great blemish to the brightnesse of her name: for a soule adulterer, is euer worse then adulterie it selfe. And is it not a great signe she loatheth her husband, when she liketh one better, which is euery way worse? But to haue a friend of reservation whose very countenance may credit her husband, methinks cannot be no great dishonour, either to the one, or to the other. What discredit was it to Helen, when she left her husband Menelaus and went with Paris to Troy? did not the whole glozie of Greece to her great glozie goe in armes to fetch her againe? And if she had not been counted a peece of price, or if by that fact she had defaced her honour, is it to be thought the Grecians would haue continued tenne yeeres in warre continually to win her againe? But to leaue honour and chastitie, and come to commoditie and safetie, what do I know what perils will follow of this repulse? Is it likely Machander will put vp this reproch patiently? May I not iustly looke to haue his loue turned to hate, and that he will either by tyrannous meanes seeke the subuersion of my husband, or by treacherous designements worke the overthrow of me, and my good name? For the first, Edward a King of England may serue for an example, who when the Countesse of Salisbury would not consent to content his incontinent desire, he so raged against her parents and friends, as that the father was forced to perswade his owne daughter to folly, and the

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

the mother as a bawde to prostitute her to the Kings lust, and bring her to his priue chamber. For the second, the Earle of *Pancalar* may serue for testimonie, who when the Dutchesse of *Sauoy* would not yeld to his lasciuious lust, wrought such wiles, that she was condemned for adulterie, and iudged to suffer most shamefull death by burning. Now to preuent either of these perils, it lieth in my power: and seeing of evils the least is to be chosen, I thinke it better then to hazard life, liuing, or good name, to lose that which shall be no great losse to my husband or my selfe: for as the Sunne though it shine on vs here in *Arcadia*, yet it giueth light likewise to those which are in *England*, and other places, so is there that in me wherewith *Lyfimachus* may be satisfied, and *Marchander* sufficed. And this encourageth me thereto the rather, for that I see by experience in most of my neighbours, that those are euer most made of, who that way deale most falsely with their husbands. Besides that, how openly soeuer they deale in these affaires, their husbands neuer heare of it: and though they do, yet will they not hearken vnto it: and albeit they do in a manner see it, yet will they not beleue it: and though thereto they giue credance, yet will they loue them the better, to haue them leaue it the sooner. Againe, what know I whether my husband deales falsely with me, and rolue in some other streame, which if it be so, I shall but saue his soule in paying his debts, and exercise the vertue of iustice in requiting like for like. And touching the corruption of my bloud, I thinke it made more noble, in participating with one of more dignitie then is my husband. But canst thou harlot call him husband whom thou meanest so wickedly to betray? Am I in my wits to vse these senselesse words? Is it my mouth that hath vttered this blasphemie: or was it the Diuell within me that deliuered it forth? No if I were guiltie but in thought hereto, I would restore the fault with criminall penance: yea if I felt any part in me apt to any such euill, I would cut it off, for feare of infecting the rest of the body. Good God whither now is honour fled, which was euer wont to be the fairest flower in my garland: whither now

The Historie of

is chastitie banished, which hath been alwaies the chiefest stay of my state: Shall the sunne of my shining life be now eclipsed with an act so filthy, that the very remembrance thereof is no lesse grievous then death? Why was Helen for all her beauefully betw any other accounted then a common harlot? and was it not onely to be reuenged on her, and on her champion Paris that the *Grecians* continued their siege so long? And touching the inconueniences which may incurre by this refusall, is any euill worse then dishonestie? Is there any thing to be feared more then offence? Is not the lesse of goods lesse then of ones good name? Is not an honorable death to be preferred before an infamous life? And touching the Countesse before rehearsed, had she euer married with the King if she had not continued in her constancie to the end? And for the Dutchesse of *Sanoy*, what hurt sustained she by that false accusation? did it not make her glorie and vertue shew more splendentlie to the view of the whole world? yea no doubt of it.

For like as *Arcaimes* the more you hinder their current, the greater is the deluge, or as the hearb *Camomile*, the more it is suppressed, the more it spreadeth abroad: euen so vertue and honestie, the more they are wronged with enuie, the more they eleuate and extend their flourish: for honour euer more is the reward of vertue, and doth accompany it as duly as the shadow doth the body. And as the *Sunne* though it be vnder a cloude keepeth still his brightnesse, albeit by vs it cannot be discerned: so vertue though it be darkened with diuclish deuises, yet it reserveth her power and vigour still, though to vs it seeme utterly to be extinguished: so that so long as I remember vertue and honestie, I neede not care what man, what malice, or the diuell can deuise against me. No, no, swete husband, I will not make thee ashamed to shew thy face amongst the best of them: and I will let thee vnderstand the villanie which that viper *Machander* induoureth to do thee. And shall I deale so fondly indeede? Is not the repulse punishment enough, vnlesse I betwray his doings to *Lysimachus*, and so procure him further displeasure? yea, I might thereby be occasion

Lysimachus and Varrona.

reason to set them together by the eares, wherby it might fall out (as the event of battaile is alwayes doubtfull) that my husband might be hurt, or slaine, and the common report would be (as the people are euer prone to speake the worst) that I, being an ill woman, had conspired his confusion and set Marchander to sleigh him. And though no such thing chaunced (as God forbid it should) yet this at least I should be sure to get by it, that my husband ener after would be iealous ouer me, and right carefull would he be to keepe that which he sawe others so busily to seeke. And (such is the malice of men) perchance he would iudge some light behaviour in me to be the cause that encouraged Marchander to attempt my chastitie. For men haue this common opinion amongst them, that as there is no smoake but where there is fire, so seldome is there any seruient loue, but where there hath been some kindnes shewed to kindle ones desire. Moreover, this toy may take him in the head, that it is a practise betwene vs two to preuent suspition, and cloake our loue: and with the firme perswasion of my inuincible chastitie, to lull him a sleepe in securitie, and then most to deceiue him, when he least suspected guile. And if at any time he heare of it by others, I may stop his mouth with this, that I my selfe told him of it, which if I had meant to deale falsely with him, I would not haue done. Yea what know I whether he will like the better or worse of me, for breeding such a bees nest in his braine? Lastly, I should derogate much from my owne chastitie, and in a manner accuse my selfe of pronenesse to fall that way, as though I were not strong ynough to withstand his assaults without the assistance of my husband. Yes God, in whom I repose my trust, shall fortifie me against the furie of my foes, and giue me grace with wisdom to escape his wiles, with charinesse to eschew his charmes, and with pietie to resist his prauitie.

Now to retorne to Marchander: so soone as that old balade had related vnto him at large the answer of his mistres, he fell from the place where he sat, flat vpon the ground, and lay in a traunce a great while: and now those sparkes which before loue had kindled in him, were with continuall

The Historie of

hinges so blowne, as it were with a paire of bellowses, that they brake forth into fierie flames, & that which befoze was fancie, was now turned into furie. For being come to himselfe, or rather being quite past himselfe, with staring lookes, pale countenance, with fierie eyes with gnashing teeth, with trembling tongue, in rage he roared forth these words. And shall I thus be frustrate of my desire? Shall I with words and workes, with prayers and presents, pursue the good will of a daintie disdaining dame, and receiue but laboꝝ for my loue, and greefe for my affection? But oh franticke soule, why doe I in a furie rage against her, who is the most faire and courteous creature vnder heauen? No, it is that charle I ylimachus that scoweth the seed of my sorrow, it is his seueritie towards her, that causeth her crueltie towards me, the feare which she hath of him, is the cause, she dareth not take compassion on my afflictions. And shall he swim in blisse, and I lie drencht in deepe despair? Shall he be ingorged with pleasure, and I pine away in paine? No I will make him feele that once, which he maketh me feele a thousand times a day. And hereupon determined with himselfe by some meanes or other, to procure the death of Lylimachus, thinking thereby the sooner to obtaine his purpose of his wife. And calling vnto him one of his swearing swash-buckler seruants, he layde befoze him the platfoꝝme of his purpose, and told him plainly if he would speedily dispatch Lylimachus out of the way, he would giue him a thousand crowns in his purse, to keepe him in another country. His seruant though altogether past grace, yet for fashion sake began to aduise his master moze wisely, saying.

For my owne part it maketh no matter, for an other country is as good for me as this, and I count any place my country where I may liue well and wealthily: But for your selfe, it is requisite that extraordinary care be added, in regarde that your loue towards Varrona is knowne to diuers of this cittie, by reason wherof, if I should comit any such fact, it must needs be thought that you are accessarie thereto, which will turne, though not to your death, (for that none hath authoritie aboue you

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

you to execute the rigour of the lawes vpon you) yet to your vtter shame and reproach it cannot but conuert. Lush (said his maister) the case is light where counsaile can take place: what talkest thou to me of shame, that am by inuious and spitefull dealing depriued of the vse of reason, and dispossest of my wits and senses. Neither am I the first that haue played the like part. Did not Dauid the chosen seruant of God, being blasted with the beautie of Bersheba, cause her husband Vrias to be set in the banward to be slaine, which done he married his wife? And why is it not lawfull for me to doe the like? But I know the worst of it, if then wilt not take it vpon thee, I will either perforce it my selfe, or procure some other that shall. The man seeing how his maister was bent, both to satisfie his mind, and to gaine so great a summe of money, consented as soon as opportunitie would giue him leaue to murder Lyfimachus: wherewith Machander remained somewhat appeased, hoping now to be inuested into the throne of his delights. But the ground of this vnnaturall deuise was most strangely detected. For all their consultations were overheard by Conscionato, an other of Machanders men, but more religiously addicted, being then resident in a chamber nere adioynning vnto that place wherein those things were thus debated. He vtterly condemning his maisters too much luxurious thoughts, and greatly misliking his fellows impudent promise, but especially affecting Lyfimachus as a man in whom the true sparkes of vertue were eminent, made manifest incontinently the whole conspiracie, which Machander for the losse of his wife had deuised against him, desiring him not to account him a traytor for betwraying his maisters counsel, but to thinke that he did it for conscience: hoping that although his maister inflamed with desire, or incensed by lust, had imagined such causelesse mischief, yet when time should assuage his desires, and moderate his affections, that then he would count him as a faithfull seruant, that with such care had kept his maisters credit.

The Hi storie of

Lyfimachus had not fully heard the man tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare possessed al his limmes, thinking that there was some plot wꝛought, and that the fellow did but shadowe his craft with these false colours; wherefoze he began to wax in choller, and said that he doubted not Marchander, sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breach of amitie: he had not sought any wayes to wrong him, with slanderous speeches to offend him, by sinister reports to molest his patience: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knewe not therfore any cause that should moue Marchander to seeke his death, but suspected it to be a compacted knauerie of some, to bring the gentlewoman and him at oddes. Conscionato staying him in the middelt of his talke, told him, that to dally with suspected friends, was with the Swans to sing against their death: and that if some had intended any such secret mischief, it might haue bene better brought to passe, then by reuealing the conspiracie: therfore he did ill to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder murder, not to become a murderer: and to confirm his promise, if it pleased him with his wife to flie out of Arcadia for the safegard of his life, he would goe with him, and if then he found not such a practise to be pretended, let his imagined treacherie be repayed with most monstrous torments. Lyfimachus hearing the solmne protestation of the seruant, attributed credit thereto, willing him to abide at his house a day or two, that thereby the man which should accomplish this stratageme being discovered, he might with moze security auoide the ensuing danger. Now when the day was growne by many houre aged, Conscionato who had giuen Lyfimachus to vnderstand of this intended purpose might espy where his fellow Christophero *de mala mente* came posting to his house aaine, which thing after Lyfimachus had knowne, arming himselfe for the purpose, as hauing a sword obscured by the couerture of his cloake, walked downe a groue, which Christophero perceiuing, and seeing none neer for his succour, with his cutlar violently rushed vpon him: but Lyfimachus
hauing

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

having enermore an eye vpon him, with facilitie avoided the blowe, and with such courage threw him to the ground, falling vpon his chest with so willing a waight, that Christophero yielded nature her due, and Lyfimachus the victorie.

He forthwith informed the chiefe officers of the cittie of these accidents, who examining very effectually the matter, found Mæchander a doating leacher, wherupon they not only amerced him a great fine to be paid to Lyfimachus and Varrona, but put him for cuer after from bearing any office in that cittie. Thus where these two louers delivered from their enenies, and reckoned now famous for their vertues through all *Arcadia*. This strange euent spread abroade through all the countrie, and as faine flies swift and farre, so at length it came to the eares of Syllanus, who hearing by sundry reports the same of their forwardnesse, how Lyfimachus courted to be most louing to his daughter, and she most dutifull to him, and both to strue to exceed one another in loyaltie, and glad at this mutuall agreement, he fell from the furie of his former melancholy passion, and satisfied himselfe with a contented patience, that at last he directed letters to his sonne in law, that he should make repaire to his house with his daughter. Which newes was no sooner come to the eares of this married couple, but prouiding for all things necessarie for the furniture of their voyage, they posted as fast as they could to the sea coast. Where taking shippe, and hauing a prosperous gale, in a day and a night they were set on shore in *Thessalia*: who speedily arriuing at their fathers house, found such friendly entertainment at the old mans hand, that they counted this smile of fortune able to counteruaile all the contrarie stormes that the aduerse Planets had inflicted vpon them.

Syllanus for y safe recovery of his daughter, surprised with exceeding great ioy, wist the last end of his liues leged. Lyfimachus after the death of his father in lawe was created Duke of *Hypata*, and being willing to recompence old Procyon, of a shepheard made him a knight. Toxeus was preferred
into

The Historie of

into the kings service, being substituted Captain of his guard: and because I will not blot from your thoughts the remembrance of all those actions, Consocioanato by act of parliament was made Ward of *Cypera*, & their farme in *Arcadia* made sure to Alexis, *Et heredibus suis in perpetuum*. These two lovers thus floating in the top of louers gallantise, transreated the sea of their life in so peaceable a calme, turning all their actions with the sweet consents of mutuall amitie, that they were accounted the onely p^residents of married gouernment. What should I say: they liued a mirrour to men, a wonder to women, and a maze to all, which when it changeth expect for newes. Now to close vp this comicall Catastrophe with a tragicall stragemie, I will relate vnto you the histozie of Valentine, brother to Lysimachus, and the fortunes of those two suborned villains, as in the beginning herof I promised.

The Historie of Valentine, and the two Beggars.

Valentine utterly forgetting y^e abuses which he had offered his brother, thought himself so surely seated, as no sinister chance or dismal influence might remoue. She that is constant in nothing but inconstancie, began in a faire skie to produce a tempest thus. It fell out as he frequented the court of Diocles King of Macedonia, that he fixed his eyes on the face of a noble gentlewoman, named Fulvia, daughter of Hermodius. And as the mouse mumpeth so long at the baite, that at length she is taken in the trap: so he bit so long at the baite of her beautie, that at length he was caught in Cupids snare. And on a time as she was at cardes in the presence chamber, this youth Valentine stood staring in her face in a great studie, which Fulvia perceiuing, to bring him out of it, prayed him to reach her a bowle of wine, which stood vpon a cupbord by: and as he approached therewith to the place of her presence, his senses were so rauished with the sight of her

Lysimachus and Varrona.

her swarte face, that he let the botle fall smyth of his hands, and retiring back with seemely shamesallnes, went so; moze, and being come therewith, she thanked him so; his paines, saying, I pray God that the fall of the wine hinder not my winning, and bzing me ill luck, so; I know many that cannot away to haue salt, o; drinke, o; any such like thing fall towards them.

Madame (said Valentine) I haue often heard it disputed in Schooles, that such as the cause of euery thing is, such will be the effect, and seeing the cause of this chance was good, I doubt not but the effect will follow accordingly: and if any euill doth ensue thereof, I trust it will light on my head, throught whose negligence it happened. Fulvia answered, as I know not the cause, so I feare not the effect, and in dede as you say, hitherto you haue had the worst of it, so; that thereby you haue been put to double paines.

If that be all (said he) rather then it shall be said any euill to haue ensued of this chance, I will perswade my selfe that euery paine which you shall put me to, shall be double delight, and vnto me treble contentation. You must vse (quoth she then) great eloquence, to perswade you to such an impossibilitie. Oh if it please you (said he) there is an Oratour which of late hath taken vp his dwelling within me, who hath eloquence to perswade to a farre greater matter then this.

If (said she) he perswade you to things no moze behoofe, full so; your selfe then this, if you will admit of my admonition, you shall not giue him house-rome long. Madame (replied he) it is an assured signe of a free and friendlie minde to giue good counsaile, but it is hard so; one in bondage, and out of his owne possession to follow it. For what knowe you whether he hath already taken entire possession of the house wherein he is, which if it be so, what wit is able to deuise a way to remove him from thence? If sir (said she) he entred by order of lawe, and paid you truly so; it, it is reason he enioy it: maye your folly was great to retaine such

The Historic of

a tenant: but if he intruded himselfe by force, you may lawfully exclude him by strength.

Indeede (said he) he entred *vi & armis*, forcibly, but after vpon parley, I was content he should remaine in peaceable possession, maye as yet he paid me nothing, but he promisseth so frankly, that if the performance follow, a house with beames of beaten gold, and pillars of precious stones, will not counteruaile the price thereof: yet if I were placed in quiet possession of it, I would thinke my selfe richer, I will not say then the king, but which is more, then God himselfe, who ruleth heauen and earth. And as the hope of obtaining the effect of that promise heaueth me vp to heauen, so the doubt to be deceiued thereof driueth me downe to hell.

And what iollie fellow (said she) is this that promisseth so franklie? will he not promise golden hills, and perfume dirtie dales? Would to God (said he) your seemely selfe were so well acquainted with him as I am, then would I make you iudge of the worthinesse of the thing he hath promised, for that you know the goodnes thereof, none better.

The Lady smelling the drifts of his deuises, and seeing the end of his talke seemed to tend to loue, and that touching her owne selfe, thought not good to draw on their discourse any longer, but concluded with this answer. As I am altogether ignozant what your obscure talke meaneth, so care I not to be acquainted with any such companie as is your Landlozd, for so (me thinks by you) I may more fitlie call him, then tearme him your tenant: and so departed away into her lodging.

Valentine likewise his mistres being gone, gate him to his Chamber to entertaine his amorous conceits, and being alone, brake forth into these words. O friendly fortune, if continually hereafter thou furiously frowne vpon me, yet shall I all the dayes of my life count my selfe bound vnto thee, for the onely pleasure which this day thou hast afforded me, in giuing me occasion to talke with her, whose angels voice made such
beauculy

Lysimachus and Varrona.

heavenly harmonie in my heauie heart, that where befoze it was plunged in perplexities, it is now placed in felicitie: and where befoze it was oppressed with care, it is now refreshed with comfort. Yea every look of her is able to cure me, if I were in most deepe distresse of a most dangerous disease: every sweet word proceeding from her sugred lips, is of force to fetch me from death to life. But alas how true do I try that saying, that every commoditie hath annexed vnto it a discommoditie? How doth the remembrance of this ioy put me in mind of the griefe, which the losse of this delight will procure me: yea it maketh all my senses shake, to thinke that some other shall enioy her more worthie of her then my selfe: and yet who in this court, nay in all Christendome, nay in the whole world, is worthie of her? No, if she neuer haue any, vntill every way she haue one worthie of her, she shall neuer haue any. And shall I then, being but a poore Gentleman, seek to insinuate my selfe into a place so high? Shall I by my rude attempt purchase at least the displeasure of her friends and parents, and perchance of hers also, whome to displease would be no lesse offensive vnto me then death? Alas, and must loue needes be rewarded with hate? must courtesie be counterailed with crueltie? must good will be returned with displeasure? Is it possible that bountie should not abide, where beautie doth abound? and that courtesie should not associate her comelinesse? Yes, I am sure at the least she will suffer me to loue her, though her yong yeres, and high estate will not suffer her to affect me: and though she will not accept me for an husband, yet I am perswaded she will not reiect me for a servant: and though she will not receiue my seruice, yet I doubt but she will affable take the tending thereof vnto her. And touching her parents displeasure, what care I to procure the ill will of the whole world, so I may purchase her good liking. Yea, if I should spend the most precious bloud in my bodie, in the pursuite of so pererlesse a peece, I would count it as well bestowed, as if it were shed in the quarrell of the Gods, my

The Historie of

Prince, or countie. For she is y^e Goddesse whom with deuotion I will adore: she is the prince, whom with dutie I wil obey: she is the countie in whole cause I will spend my life, liuing, and all that I haue. Neither is there such cause why her friends should much storne at the matter: for my lands and reuenues are such, as that they will not suffer me to want any thing pertaining to my estate and degre. Why Aluarne a youth like my selfe, being inamour'd with Ardalefia daughter to the mightie Emperour Otho stole her away, and married her: and do I sticke to attempt the like with one of farre meaner estate, though of farre more worthinesse? And albeit frowning Fortune tossed him for a while in the tempestuous seas of aduersitie, yet at the length he arriued at the haven of happie estate, and was reconciled to the good grace of the Emperour againe. And though at the first my ship be shaken with angrie blasts, yet in time I doubt not but to be safely landed on the shore, and haue my share of that which the shewes of shrewde fortune shall keepe me from. He is not worthy to suck the swete, who hath not first saoured the sower: And as the beaultie of a faire woman, being placed by a foule, blazeth more brightly, so each ioy is made more pleasant, by first tasting some sower sops of sorrow. Did not the perrill which Leander ventured in the Ocean, and the paine which he tooke in swimming, make his arriual to the haven of his heauenly Hero more happie and pleasant? yes no doubt of it: for besides the feeling of the present pleasure, the remembrance of the danger past delighteth. Besides that, by how much more a man hazardeth himselfe for his mistresse sake, by so much the more he manifesteth the constancie of his soule, and meriteth solace at her hands the more worthily. This saying also is no lesse tried then true, that fortune euer saoureth the valiant: & things the more hard, the more haughtie, high & heauenly: neither is any thing difficult to be by him accomplished which hardly enterpriseth it. With that he toke a Lute in his hand and played a note to a dittie which he sung as followeth.

Valentine

Lyfimachus and Varrona

Valentines Song.

I would thou wert not faire, or I were wise,
I would thou hadst no face, or I no eyes:
I would thou wert not wise, or I not fond,
Or thou not free, or I not so in bond.

But thou art faire, and I cannot be wise,
Thy sunlike face, hath blinded both mine eyes:
Thou canst not be but wise, nor I but fond,
Nor thou but free, nor I but still in bond.

Yet am I wise to thinke that thou art faire,
Mine eyes, their purenesse in thy face repaire:
Nor am I fond, that doe thy wisdom see:
Nor yet in bond, because that thou art free.

Then in thy beutie onely make me wise,
And in thy face, the Graces guide mine eyes:
And in thy wisdom onely see me fond,
And in thy freedome keepe me still in bond.

So shalt thou still be faire, and I be wise:
Thy face shines still vpon my cleared eyes:
Thy wisdom onely see how I am fond:
Thy freedome onely keepe me still in bond.

So would I thou wert faire, and I were wise:
So would I thou hadst thy face, and I mine eyes:
So would I thou wert wise, and I were fond,
And thou wert free, and I were still in bond.

With these, and such like sayings, encouraging himselfe,
he purposed to pursue his purpose, and sayled not daily to at-

The Historie of

tend vpon his mistress with all dutie and diligence, & sought all occasions he could to let her vnderstand his loyal loue, and great good will towards her: which she perceiuing, disdayned not to acknowledge by her amiable and courteous countenance towards him, wherewith he held himselfe as well satisfied, as if he had bene made Monarch of the whole world. And though he were oft determined in words to present his sute vnto her, yet when it came to the point he should haue spoken, feare of offending her altogether disappointed his purpose, and made him mute in the matter which he minded to vtter. But at length perceiuing that delay bred danger, for that she had many other suiters, and feeling by experience, that as fire, the more it is kept downe, the more it flammeth vp: so loue, the more he sought to suppress him, the more fiery forces within him he expressed: he beganne to let feare aside, and to force a supply of courage in his faint heart, and seeing his mistress sit in the presence alone, he entred into reasoning with her in this manner.

Madam, for that I see you without company, I am the bolder to presume to prease in place, whereof though I be altogether vnworthy, yet am I willing to supply it: and if my company may content you, as well as your sight satisfieth me, I doubt not but you will accept it in good part: and so much the lesse I hope my company shall be cumbersome vnto you, for that you are busied about nothing whereto my presence may be prejudiciall. And verily when I consider the common course of life, which your street selfe, and other maydes of your estate leade, me thinkes it is altogether like the spending of your time at this present, which is (with your leave be it spoken) idly, vnfruitfully, without pleasure, without profit. And if my credit were such with you, to craue beliefe for that which I shal speake, I would not doubt but to perswade you to another trade of life, more commendable to the world, more honorable amongst all men, and more acceptable in the sight of God. For beleeue me I pittie nothing more then virgins vaine pittie, who thinke they merit reward for liuing chastly,

Lyſimachus and Varronia.

chastly, when in deed they deserue blame for spending their time so wastly.

Sir (said she) as your company contenteth me well enough, so your talke liketh me but a little: for though I must confesse I sit at this present without doing any thing, yet in my fancie it is better to be idle, then ill imployed as your selfe is now, in reprehending that state of life which excelleth al others, as farre as the Sunne doth a star, or light darknesse: and wher in I meane, for my part, to passe the pilgrimage of this my short life, if either God dispose me not, or my friends force me not to the contrary.

God forbid Madame (said he) you should continue your time in any such trifling trade of life, which indeed is to be counted no life at all, as the Grecian Ladies can truly testifie, who (as Homer reporteth) reckon their age from the time of their marriage, not from the day of their birth: and if they be demaunded how old they be, they begin to number from their marriage, and so answer accordingly: for then onely (say they) we begin to liue, when we haue a house to gouerne, and may commaund our children and our seruants.

Lush (said the Ladie) this is but the sentence and proper opinion of our peculiar people, who perchance by nature of their countrey or otherwise, are more desirous of husbands then other: neither is it any more reason that we should be tied to their example, then they bound to follow our virgin Vestals: or other, who consume the whole course of their life without contaminating their corps with the company of man. Nay rather (said he) without receiuing their perfection from men, according to the opinion of Aristotle. But Madame I did not produce that example as necessarie for all to follow, but as profitable to proue and shew, what base account they made of virginittie, which you so highly esteeme of. But to leaue particular opinions, and come to generall constitutions and customes, I meane both natural, humane, and diuine lawes, and you shall see them all to make
against

The Historie of

against you. And first if you consider natures, which in the doings of creatures without reason are plainly set downe, you shall behold no living wight in the worlde vniuersall, but that so soone as by age they are apt thereto, applie themselves to that life whereby their kind may be conserued, and number increased. Behold the high flying Falcon, which soareth so high in the aire, that a man would thinke she should neither stoupe to lure or lust: yet she is no sooner an Entermurer, or at the farthest a white Walke, but that of her owne accord she cometh to the call of the Terrell-gentle her mate. Likewise the Doe, which flingeth so freely about the woods, as though she made no account of the male, yet she is no sooner a forerunner, but that she seeks the societie of the Bucke. Yea if it would please your sexmely selfe to enter into the consideration of your owne nature, or if your courtesie would deeme me worthe to haue the examination of your secret thoughts, I doubt not but you would confesse your selfe to feele a fierie force of that naturall inclination which is in other creatures: which being so, you must graunt to deale vnnaturally in resisting that motion which cannot be ill or idle, because nature hath planted it in you. For God and nature do nothing vaine, or after a vile manner. And in that some do amisse in rebelling against her, their owne scrupulous nicenesse is the cause, when they will impose vpon themselves heauier burdens then they are well able to sustaine, and refuse those which nature hath appointed them to beare, being indeede but light.

What talke you sir (said she) so much of nature, and of creatures without reason, as though we ought to follow either the instinct of the one, or the example of the other. I haue been alwayes taught, that reason is the rule whereby our actions ought to be directed, and that we ought to lay befoze vs the deeds of creatures indued with reason to follow and imitate. For if you stick so strictly to the example of brute beasts, you should vse the company of women but once or twice at the most in a yeere, as most of them do with their females, whereunto I am sure you would be loth to be tyed.

Madame

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Madame (replied he) a Gentlewoman of this citie hath already answered this objection for me. Why then (quoth she) will you condemn their doings in some points, and place them for patternes to be practised by other some?

Yea why not (said he) otherwise you might generally take exception against the example of men, for that some men in some matters do amisse. The good ever is to be used, and the euill rejected. Doth not every man so soone as his daughter is arrived to ripe yéeres, trauaile to bestow her in marriage, whereby she may enjoy the fruites of loue, and participate with pleasures incident to that estate? whereby they plainly shewe that the cause why they beget them with pleasure, and bring them vp with paine, is to haue them enter into that trade of life, wherein not onely themselves may liue happily, abounding in all pleasure, but also by the fertill fruite of their bodie make their mortall parents immortall, that when they shall be blasted with age, and withered away, the issue of their seede may begin greenly to growe, and flourishy to spring, to the great comfort both of father and daughter. For what pleasure the Grandfather taketh in the sporting pastime of his proper daughters prettie children, I thinke you partly vnderstand: and what delight the mother taketh in the toys of her little soune, you soone shall perfectly perceiue, if it please you freely to followe the friendlie counsaile which I frankly pronounce vnto you. For do you thinke, if virginities were of such vertue, that parents would not rather paine themselves to keepe their daughters modest maydes, then straine themselves and their substance to ioyne them in Iunoes sacred bond? Yes perswade your selfe, if your mother were so assured, she would rather lock you vp close in her closet, then suffer any to enjoy the soueraigne sight of your beautie, or once aspire to your speech, whereby you might be perswaded to some other kind of life. But the experience by yéeres knoweth what is best for your behoufe, and would you should follow her example, and make no conscience to lose that which she herselfe hath lost, which ex-

The Historie of

cept she had, we had mist so rare a iewel as your seemely selfe is, which what a detriment it had been to my selfe, I dare not say, least you should count vertue vanitie, and truth trifling flatterie. But to our purpose, you perceiue (as I said) your parents pleased with the access of Gentlemen vnto you, whereby you may conceiue their minde is you should accept such seruice as they profer, and partake with those pleasures which they prefer vnto you.

Why sir (said she) you altogether mistake the meaning of men in this matter: for when fathers tender marriages to their daughters, it is not for any minde they haue to haue them married, but onely for feare least they should fall to follie other waies: for knowing the fickle frailtie of youth, and our propensities to grauitie, and weakenesse, they prouide vs marriages to preuent mischieses: and seeing of euils the least is to be chosen, they count wedlock a lesse euill then the lightnes of our life and behauiour.

Alas good Madame (said Valentine) why do you so much prophane the holie state of Matrimony, as to count it in the number of euils, whereas the Gods themselves haue entred into that calling, whereas Princes pleasantly passe their time therein, whereas by it onely mankind is preserved, and amitie and loue amongst men continued, of the worthinesse wherof I am not sufficient to open my lips.

Sir (said Fulvia) I speake it not of my selfe, but according to the opinion of the most wise and learned Philosophers that euer liued, amongst whom one Aminius so much misliked of marriage, that being demanded why he would not marrie, answered, because there were so many inconueniences incident to that estate, that the least of them is able to slay a thousand men.

Why Madame (replied he) you must consider there is nothing in this mortall life so absolutely good and perfect, but that there be inconueniences as well as commodities thereby incurred: by that reason you may take the Sunne out of the world, for that it parcheth the Sommer grasse, and banisheth

Lyfimachus and Varrona.

Weth away the beautie of those that therein blaze their faces. But to leaue naturall and humane lawes, and come to diuine precepts proceeding from Gods owne mouth, doth not God say, It is not good for a man to live alone, and therefore made Eue for an help and comforter? Likewise in diuers places of Scripture he doth not onely commend marriage vnto vs, saying, Marriage, and the bed vndefiled are honourable, but also commaundeth vs to it, saying, You shall forsake father and mother, and follow your wiues.

Why sir (said she) and doth not God say, It is good for a man not to touch a woman? And if thou be vnmarried, remaine so. But why allcadge you not this text, It is better to marry then to burne? Whereby is plainly shewed, that marriage is but a meane medicine for the burning in concupiscence and lust. But because we entred into these miseries, I could refer you to an historie, where it is reported that in heauen Virgins chiefly serue God, and set forth his glorie. And Mahomet the great Turke, when he was in heauen, said, he sawe there Virgins, who if they issued from heauen would lighten the whole world with their brightness, and if they chanced to spit into the sea, they would make the whole water as sweete as hony: but here is no mention of married folkes.

Belike (said he) those Virgins are like your selfe, and then no maruaile though God be delighted with the sight of them, which perchance is the cause he hath them in heauen to attend vpon him, as first Hebe and after Ganymedes did vpon Iupiter. But generally of women, the histories record, that by bringing forth of children they shall be honoured, and enjoy a place in heauen, which must be by marriage, if honestly. But because I am perswaded that it is only for argument sake that you disallow marriage, and that you pretend otherwise in words, then you intend to do in works, I am content to giue you the honour of the field, and thus far to yield my consent to your opinion, that virginity considered of

The Historie of

it alone nature, simply without circumstance is better then matrimony: but because the one is full of perill, the other fraught with pleasure: the one full of ieopardie, the other full of security: the one as rare as the blacke swanne, the other as common as the black crowe: of good things, I thinke the more common, the more commendable.

3^e (quo she) I haue gotten any conquest thereby, I thanke mine owne cause, not your courtisie, who yeelds when you are able to stand no longer in defence.

My Madame say not so (quoth he) for in that verie yielding to your opinion, I proued marriage better then virginity, for that it is more common: neither would I haue you turne my silence in this matter in lacke of knowledge, or reprehend me, if I spare to inforce further proofe in a matter already sufficiently proued: no more then you would rebuke the spanniell, which ceaseth to hunt, when he seeth the hawke seized on the partridge. But you may maruaile madam what is the cause that maketh me perswade you thus earnestly to marriage, which as mine owne vnwoorthynesse willett me to hide, so your incomparable courtesie entrageth me to disclose, which maketh me thinke that it is no small cause which can make you greatly offended with him, who beareth you great good will, and that what sute soeuer I shall prefer vnto you, you will either graunt it, or forgiue it: pardon, or pittie it. Therefore may it please you to vnderstand, that since, not long since, I tooke large view of your vertue, and beautie, my heart hath bene so inflamed with the bright beames thereof, that nothing is able to quench it, but the water which floweth from the fountaine that first infected me: and if pittie may so much preuaile with you, as to accept me, I dare not say for your husband, but for your slave and seruant: assure your selfe, there shall no doubt of danger driue me from my duetie towards you, neither shall any Ladie whatsoener haue more cause to reioyce in the choice of her seruant, then shall your selfe, for that I wil account my life no longer pleasant vnto me, then it shall be imployed in your seruice.

Fuluia

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Fuluia drying her little cheekes with vermillion red, and casting her eyes on the ground, gaue him this answere. As I am to yeld you thanks for your good wil, so am I not to affoord consent to your request: for y^e I neither mind to marrie, nor thinke my selfe worthe to retaine such a seruant. But if I were disposed to receiue you any way, I thinke the best manner meane enough for your worthinesse.

Immediately hereupon there came company vnto them, which made them breake off their talke, and Fuluia being got into her chamber, began to thinke on the sute made vnto her by Valentine: and by this time Cupid had so cunningly carued and ingraued the idoll of his person and behauiour in her heart, that she thought him worthe of a farre more excellent wife then her selfe: and perswading her selfe by his words and lookes, that his loue was loyall without lust: true without trifling, and faithfull without faigning, she determined to accept it, if her parents would giue thereto their consent. Now Valentine nothing dismayed with her former deniall, for that it had a courteous close, so soone as opportunitie serued, set on her againe in this sort.

Now Madame you haue considered my case at leisure, I trust it will stand with your good pleasure to make me a more comfortable answere. I beseech you sir (said she) rest satisfied with my former resolution, for other as yet I can make you none.

Alas Madame (quoth he) the extremitie of my passion will not suffer long prolonging of remors, wherefore I humbly entreat you, presently to passe your sentence either of bale or blisse, of saluation or damnation, of life or death: or if the heauens haue conspired my confusion, and that you meane rigorously to reiect my good wil, I meane not long to remaine alive to trouble you with any tedious sute: for I account it as good reason to honour you with the sacrifice of my death, as I haue thought it conuenient to bestow vpon you the seruice of my life.

The Historie of

Alas (quoth she) this ietting is nothing ioyfull vnto me, and I pray you vse no more of it, for the remembrance of that which you utter in sport, maketh me feele the force thereof in good earnest: for a thousand deaths at once cannot be so dreadfull vnto me, as once to thinke I lue to procure the death of any such as you are.

If (said he) you count my words sport, iett, and dalliance, assure your self it is sport without pleasure: iett without comfort: and dalliance without delight, as tract of time shall truly manifest. But if you loue not to heere of my death, why like you not to giue me life? which you may doe onely by consent of your good will. Why sir (quoth she) you know my consent consisteth not in my selfe but in my parents, to whom I owe both dutie and honour, therefore first it becometh you to demaund their consent.

Why Madame (quoth he) shall I make more account of the meaner parts then of the head, you are the chiefe in this election, and therefore let me receiue one good word of your good will, and then let heauen and earth doe their worst. It is not the coyne, countenance or credit of your parents that I pursue: for to purchase such a treasure as is your good will, I could be content all the dayes of my life to be obnoxious vnto all calamities, so that you be mainteyned according to your desire and worthinesse.

Well (said she) seeing I am the onely marke at which you shote, assay by all meanes to get my friends good liking, and if you leuell any thing straight, me you shall not misse. Valentine vpon this procured the kings letters (for in his fauour he was highly interested) to her father in this behalfe, who hauing perused them, said, he trusted the king would giue him leaue to dispose of his owne according to his pleasure, and that his daughter was too neere vnto him, to see her cast away vpon one, who for lacke of yeres wanted wisedome to gouerne her, and for lacke of lands, liuing to mainteine her. And calling his daughter befoze him, he began to expostulate with her in this sort.

Daughter,

24

Lysimachus and Varrona.

Daughter, I euer heretofore thought you would haue
been a solace and comfort to my old yeeres, and the prolonger
of my life, but now I see you will increase my hoarie haire,
and be the hastner of my death. Dost the tender care, the
carefull charge, and chargeable cost which I haue euer vsed
in bringing you vp, deserue this at your hands, that you
should passe a graunt of your good will in marriage without
my consent? Is the pietie towards your parents, and the
duetie of a daughter towards her father, so bitterly forgotten,
that you will prefer the loue of an vnthrift, before my displea-
sure; and to please him care not to offend your parents, who
trauaile to bestowe you vpon one worthe your estate and
ours? No, neuer thinke Valentine shall inioy you with my
good will, and neuer take me for your father, if you graunt
him your assent thereto. Fulvia hearing this cruell conclusion
of her father Hermodius, with bashfull countenance and
trembling tongue framed her answer in this forme.

I beseech you good father not to thinke me so gracelesse a
childe, as once to imagin, much lesse to do any thing which
may heape your heavinesse, or hasten your death, the least
of which two, would be more bitter vnto me then death.
For if it please you to vnderstand, I haue not granted my
good will to any, vnlesse yours be thereto gotten. Neither
haue I as you see preferred the loue of an vnthrift before your
displeasure. But as I cannot let that noble Gentleman Va-
lentine to loue me, so can I not, to confesse the truth, but
loue him, mary in heart onely, for my bodie as you gaue it
me, so shall you haue the disposing of it. And as I faithfully
promise you by the loue which of duetie I owe you, that I
will neuer haue any husband without your approbation,
so I humbly begge of you, for the affection which by nature
you beare me, that you will neuer force me to any without my
good liking. For if for the transitorie life you haue giuen
me, you make me pay so dærely, as to be linked with one
against my will, I must needes count it a hard peniworth,
and well may I wish that neuer I had bene bozne.

The Historie of

I beseech you (Sir) consider the inconueniences alwayes incident to those marriages, where there is more respect of money, then of the man: of honours, then of honestie: of goods, then of affection of the parties each to other. What strife, what iarres, what debate at bed, and at board, at home, and abroad, about this, about that, neuer quietnes with contentation, neuer merrie countenance without counterfainting, neuer louing deeds without dissimulation: And whence, but from this rotten roole springeth so many dishonourable women, so many cuill living men? Is it not the loathing of neuer liked lips, that maketh women stray from their husbands, to strangers? And is it not either the difference of yeeres, or the diuersitie of manners, or disagreement of natures, that maketh the husband forsake the wife, and follow other women? And where are any of these differences, or inequalities betwene the married, but where the force of friends, not libertie of loue, linketh them together. These things by your wisdom considered, I trust as you restraine me from one whom I loue, so you will not constrain me to any whom I loue not: in so doing doubt not but you shall find in me modestie meete for a mayd, vertue fit for a virgin, dutie becoming a daughter, and obedience becoming a child. Her father hauing mildly heard her modest talke, told her, he meant not to force her to any, but would provide her a husband, whom he doubted not should like her better euery way then Valentine did, and therefore willed her to race out of her minde the liking which she had conceived of him: and so gave her leaue to depart. And being in her Chamber, she began to devise all the meanes she could to rote out of her heart the loue which she bare vnto Valentine, and reuoked to her memorie her fathers displeasure, and her owne preferment, with many other discommodities that way arising. But nothing preuailed, for as a bird caught in time, the Deare in a toyle, the more they strue, the faster they sticke, so the more diligentlie she laboured to get out of the labyrinth of fancie, the more doubtfully was she therein intricated: and as
one

Lyfmachus and Varrona.

one climbing on high, his fete falling, and he in danger to fall, moze firmly fastneth his hold then befoze he did: so Loue, seeing himselfe readie to be dislodged out of her best take such sure hold, and fortified himselfe so stronglie within her, that no vigour was of force sufficient to fetch him from thence. Which the good Gentlewoman perceiuing, thought best for her ease and quiet, to yeeld the summons of loue, to be disposed at his pleasure, wherein no doubt she had reason, For as the swift running streame if it be not stopped runneth smoothly and without noise, but if there be any damme or locke made to stay the course thereof, it rageth, and roareth, and swelleth above the banks, so Loue, if we obey his loze, and yeeld vnto his soueraignitie: dealeth with vs gentlie, and like a louing Lord raigneth ouer vs, but if we withstand his force, and seeke to stay the passage of his power, he rageth ouer vs like a cruell tyrant. Which this Gentlewoman (as I said) perceiuing, without any moze resistance determined in her heart to loue Valentine onely and euer.

Now Valentine notwithstanding the angrie looks of the father, the frowning face of the mother, and the strange counterfait countenance of the daughter, followed his suite so effectuallic, vnto such apt perswasions to the maide, and in short time insinuated himselfe so farre into her familiaritie, that her parents loved not so fast, but she allured as much, and thought she receiued no other contentation in the whole world but in his companie, which her parents perceiuing, and being dreadding the kings displeasure, thought as good by their consent to let them goe together, as by seueritie to keepe them aunder, whom the Gods seemed to ioyne together: and so much the rather they were induced thereto, for that they sawe their daughter so affected to Valentine, that the hearing of any other husband was hatefull, and vnto her hurtfull. And hereupon the marriage was concluded, and consummated, and to this bargain only the fancie of Valentine forced him.

Now behold the nature and condition of fortune: for she hauing laund these men (namely Valentine, and the two

The Historie of

rogues) along with roses, meant now to whip them with nettles, and having presented them with the brightness of her favours, now she crossed them with many frownes. They that did thinke themselves the most fortunate amongst men, may now account themselves the most distressed of all men. For they having carelessly floated in the seas of voluptuousnes, and rechelessly reigned in the lazy seas of lawlesse libertie, where they fed on nought but loosenes and licentiousnes, whereby most prompt to wickednes, were wrapt in the performance of most desperate designements. For one of them named Delfridus was by the furies of hell so set on fire in abominous lust towards his mistres Fulvia, that he sought all the meanes possible to win her to his wicked will, not much unlike Maechander above mentioned: the other called Infolander, was so instigated on with arrogancie, that he daily accupated after the destruction of him who was the cause of his eleuation unto prosperitie, vitterly casting behind them the remembrance of their former state and condition. This Infolander was so blinded with promotion, that upon hope of a little commotie purchased by his maisters death, sought as (I said) by all meanes to worke his ruine: which being perceiued (for God will not suffer such vilde attempts to be practised) Valentine persecuted the matter so earnestly against him, that he was throwne into prison, where for shame of his deede, and dread of deserved punishment, he did himselfe desperately to death.

Now Delfridus seeing his mistres too firmly fortified in vertue to be by consent vanquished by villanie, determined also by death to remoue the obstacle. And as nothing is so impossible which frantike furie will not enterprize, nothing so shamefull which vnbridled desire will not undertake, nothing so false which fleshly filthines will not forge, so to bring his purpose to passe, as Valentine on a time (in ill time) passed through a blinde lane of the citie, he throwed himselfe in a corner, and as he came by, shot him thorough with a Pistoll, which done, he forthwith repaired home, making grievous lamentation

Lysimachus and Varrona

lamentation (but in a counterfeit manner) so; the cruell murder of his most louing and affectionate maister as he treated him. Fulvia hearing of this bruturall deede, and by circumstances knowing Delfridus to be the authour thereof, tearing her haire, scratching her face, and beating her bodie against the ground, so sone as the floods of teares had flowen so long that the fountaine was drie, so that her speech might haue passage which before the teares stopped, she began to crie out in this carefull manner.

O God; what iustice is this, to suffer the earth to remaine polluted with the blood of innocents? Didst thou curse Cain for killing his brother Abell? and wilt thou not crucifie Delfridus for slaying Valentine? Is thy heart now hardened that thou wilt not, or are thy hands now weakened that thou canst not preserve thy seruants from the slaues of Satan? If there be no safetie in innocencie, wherein shall we repose our selues? If thou be not our protector, who shall defend vs? If the wicked vanquish the vertuous, who shall set forth thy honour and glorie? or who will so much as once call vpon thy name? But what meane I wretched wight to exclaime against God as the authour of my euill, whereas it is onely my selfe that am guiltie of my husbands death? It is I that pampred vp my beautie, to make it glister in the sight of euerie gazing eye, in the thristlesse threed whereof this miscreant was intangled, that to vniwinde himselfe thereout, hee hath wrought all this mischief. It is I that would not detect his doings to the view of the world, whereby the perill which hung ouer my husbands head might haue beene prevented. And seeing I haue bene the cause of his death, shall I (being a murderer) remaine alieue? Did Hecyone seeing the dead carcasse of her husband Ceix cast on shore, willingly cast her selfe into the Sea to accompanie his death? and shall I see my sweete beloued true Valentine slaine, and not drinke of the same cup? Did true Thisbe goare her gorgeous bodie with the same sword where-

The Historie of

With princely Pyramus had prickt himselfe to the heart: and are not my hands strong ynough to do the like? Did Iulietta die vpon the corps of her Romeo, and shall my bodie remaine on earth, Valentine being buried? No gentle death come with thy direfull dart, and pierce my painefull soule, and with one death rid me out of a thousand at once. For what thought do I thinke on my Valentine, which doth not procure me double death? What thing do I see belonging to him, which is not a treble torment vnto me? But it is cowardinesse to wish for death, and courage valiantly to take it. Yes I can and will bestow my life for my Valentines sweete sake. But O God, shall the varlet remaine alive to triumph in his treachery, and vaunt in his villanie? Shall I not see his fatall day before my finall end? It is his blood that will be a most sweete sacrifice to the ghost of my Valentine: and then can I end my life contentedly, when I haue offered vp this acceptable sacrifice. And vntill such time as I haue opportunitie hereto, I will prolong my wofull dayes in direfull griefe, and only the hope of reuenge shall heauilie hold my loathsome life and sorrowfull soule together. For other cause why I should desire life I haue not, for that I am utterly depriued of all ioyes of life. For as the bird that is bruised with some blow lieth aloft in the leaues, and heares his fellows sing, and is not able to utter one warbling note out of his mournfull voice, but rather hates the harmony which other birds do make, so I, my heart being broken, sit solitary alone, and see some hang about their husbands necks, some closely clip them in their armes, some trifle with them, some talke with them, all which redouble my paine, to thinke my selfe destitute of those pleasures: yea, to a wretched wounded heart that dwels in dole, every pleasant sight turnes to bitter anguish, and the euely object which shall euer content my eyes, shall be the destruction of that Iudas which hath brought me to this desolation.

Now Delidus thinking that time had taken away her feares and sorrow, and supposing that neither she, or any other had suspected him for the murder of Valentine, began to
enter

Lysimachus and Varrona.

enter into the lists of lull againe, and with a new encounter of incontinencie to set vpon her. But she so much abhorred him, that if she had but heard his name, it caused her nature to faile in her, and all her senses to faint: so that when he sawe no possibilitie to impell her to unpictie, he meant to sollicite her in the way of marriage, and caused her neere kinsfolks and friends to moue his suite vnto her (so: he was a man well countenanced of many) who laboured very earnestlie in the matter, and were so importunate vpon her, that no answer would satisfie them. Now Fulvia seeing she could not be rid of her friends, and foreseeing that by this meanes she might be freed from her enemye, agreed to take him to husband. And the day of solemnizing the marriage being come, they went together to the temple of Diana, where all things according to custome being consummated, the Bride-wife (as the vse was) dranke to her husband in wine as he thought, but indeed in poison which she had prouided of purpose: and when she saw he had drunke by his death, she said vnto him, Go now, and in steed of thy marriage bed get thee a graue, for thy marriage is turned to murder, a punishment iust for thy outrageous lust, and merciless designement: for vengeance, asketh vengeance, and blood, blood, and they that sowe slaughter, shall be sure to reape ruine and destruction.

Now Delfridus hearing these words, and feeling the force of the poison to worke within him, assayed all the remedies he could to heale himselfe, but all in vaine. Fulvia also feeling the poison to preuaile within her, fell vpon her knees before the altar of Diana, uttering these words. O Goddess, thou knowest how, since the death of my sweete husband, this life hath been most loathsome and sorrow vnto me, and that the onely offering vp of this sacrifice hath kept me from him, which now in thy presence being performed, I thinke my selfe to haue satisfied my duty, and purchased thereby a passport to passe to the habitation and paradise where my husband hath his dwelling.

Immediately vpon this, so well as she could, she crawled

The Historie of

being to her house, where she was no sooner, but tidings were
 brought her that Delidius was dead, wherewith with great
 joy she cast her selfe downe upon her bedde, and called her
 little sonne which she had by Valentine, whom blessing and
 bussing, said. Alas pretie mine, who shall now defend thee
 from thy foes, who shall redress thy wrongs? Thy father is
 gone, thy mother is departing, and thou poore soule must abide
 behind, to endure the brunt and bitter blisses of this wretched
 world. Ah if the love which I bare my husband had not bene
 exceeding great, nature would haue caused me to haue some
 care of thee, and for thy sake to haue suffered my selfe something
 longer to liue: but now as I haue shewed my selfe a loving
 wife, so haue I scarce shewed my selfe a naturall mother. But
 alas it was reason I should prefer him before thee, who was
 the author of thee, and who blessed me with thee. Well I see
 now my time is come, my tongue begins to faile, come deare
 child and take thy last Conge of thy dying mother: God shield
 thee from shame: God preserve thee from perill: God send
 thee more prosperous fortune then haue had thy poore pa-
 rents. And thus farewell my fruite, farewell my flesh, fare-
 well sweet babe. And welcome my *Valentine*, whom I
 see in the Skies ready to receiue me And so in sorrow and joy
 she gaue vp the ghost. Thus was the end of Valentine fatally
 no doubt sent, thus was the end of the beggers miserably ac-
 complished.

Now I would wish you blazing stars, which stand vppon
 your chastity, to take light at this lot, to take heed by this harme:
 you & the husband slain, the leacher poisoned, the wife dead, the
 friends comfortlesse, the child parentlesse. And can the preserua-
 tion of one simple womans chastitie counteruaile all these con-
 fusions, had not the losse of it bene lesse then of her life? But it
 is naturally incident to women to enter into extremitie, they
 are too leuing or too loathing: too courteous or too coy: too willing
 or too wilfull: too mercifull, or too mercilesse: too sorrowfull, or too
 froward: too friendly, or too fiendlike: the mean they attaine to no
 derly account of; otherwise she might with (reason, sooner then
cub

26

Lysimachus and Varrona.

outrage) haue suppressed his rage: she might with some continent courtesie haue cooled his incontinent desires: and better it had bene to haue drawne him on with delays, then to haue deu-
uen him into such dispaire: and to haue brought him into some
errour, then into such feare to haue presepated him. But how-
soeuer my words run, I would not you should take them alto-
gether to tend to her dispraise: for as I must condemne her
crueltie, so can I not but commend her constancie, and thinke
her worthe to be compared to Lucrece, Penelope, or what wo-
man soeuer that euer had any preheminnence of praise for her
vertue. And I would with my gallant youtnes, which delight
to gaze on euery beautifull glasse, and to haue an oare stirring
in euery louely boate, not to row past their reach: not to fire
their fancies vpon impossibilities: not to suffer themselves to be
blasted with the beames of beautie, or scorched with the light-
ning of louing looes: such affection towards the married is
euer without lone: such fire is without feare: such lutes are with-
out shame: such cankers, if they be not at the beginning cured,
growe to the confusion of the whole bodie. Wherefore gentle-
woman, I leaue it to your iudgements, to giue sentence, whe-
ther is more worthe of reprehension he or she. He had the law
of loue on his side, she the law of men, and of marrigae on her
part: loue led him which the Gods themselves cannot
resist: chastitie guided her which the Goddes them-
selves haue lost: he killed him whom he counted
his enemy: she slew him whom she knew her
friend: she with reason might haue preuen-
ted great mischief, his wings were
too much limed with lust,
to flee forth of his
follye.

FINIS.